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19th March 2024

E-mail: - janet.finch-saunders@senedd.wales

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter 14 February 2024. Further to my email of 15 February, which indicated that DHCW were not in a position to answer several of the questions, namely 1,2,6,7,9 and 11, please find a response below to the remainder of the questions.

3. Why did the review undertaken in 2023 rate the programme as Amber Red?

There were several reasons listed in the OGC Gateway Review of March 2023. These included concerns around licensing for Microsoft 0365 products, cyber resilience, and information governance.

An independent Internal Audit review has been commissioned by our Audit Committee, to review the programme arrangements following transfer to DHCW and the findings from this audit will be presented to the Audit and Assurance Committee in April 2024.

4. Why has only the governance, and not the contract, transferred to DHCW?

The DHCW commercial team at DHCW conducted a review of the contract information provided by Cardiff and Vale UHB. The current contract term is such, it will need to be reprocured shortly. As a result of the review it was felt our energies were best placed on the re-procurement rather than the transfer.

5. Why does the current contract not have sufficient scope to achieve a full national roll-out by 2025?

Based on the information provided showing the spend against the contract, it is extremely doubtful that this will be sufficient to implement the Electronic Patient Record solution for all the remaining Health Boards that do not yet have the system. In addition, Electronic Referrals for Optometrists and their practice staff has not commenced, and it is expected that costs will be incurred to support integration with Optometry clinical systems and national systems.

8. Bearing in mind that health boards such as Cardiff and Vale University Health Board, Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board, and a number of trusts across England and Scotland, use Open Eyes, why not Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB)?

Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) remains an active part of the programme. At the time, the transition to DHCW commenced, five Health Boards in Wales had not yet implemented the system, mainly due to the concerns identified in the OGC Gateway Review previously referenced.

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10. Is it the case that the transition to an alternative software could cause a further delay of 5-10 years before an electronic patient record system can be deployed in North Wales?

No. We would need to identify the solution and the supplier through a procurement process, however there is no indication that this would cause such a lengthy delay. Our desire is to move as quickly as possible working closely with clinical colleagues to ensure we get a clinically driven robust solution in place as fast as we can.

I trust this answers some of the questions raised, and we would be happy to discuss further if you require any additional information.

Yours sincerely

Cadeirydd | Chair
Simon Jones

Prif Weithredwr | Chief Executive
Prof. Helen Thomas

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