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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

5 Dec 2018

Mr. Adrian Crompton  
Auditor General for Wales  
24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

Dear Mr. Crompton,

**Response to the Auditor General for Wales Report on: Radiology Services in Wales**

Thank you for your report on Radiology Services in Wales, we are grateful for your assessment of these services in Wales. We are working closely with NHS Wales to address the challenges that your report highlights and the recommendations contained within. We have previously shared a draft of our response with your colleagues, attached to this letter is a final copy of the Welsh Government response.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

**DR ROB ORFORD**

**Response to the Auditor General for Wales Report on: Radiology Services in Wales**

**Provided by: Dr Rob Orford**

**Date: 19 November 2018**

The Welsh Government welcomes the findings of the report and offer the following response to the four recommendations contained within it.

**Recommendation 1** – *The Welsh Government, through the Imaging Taskforce, should ensure that the national imaging implementation plan addresses each of the actions set out in the Imaging Statement of Intent, and the key challenges highlighted in this report.*

**Accept** – As described in the published Imaging Statement of Intent for Imaging (2018), Welsh Government is working closely with NHS Wales to deliver on the recommendations within the Statement (1).

The Statement addresses many of the challenges identified by the local audit of Radiology Services within Health Boards in 2016 and summarised in this overarching report including: Workforce, Equipment, Information systems, Consistent activity recording and Performance indicators.

The Imaging Taskforce is working to produce a National Imaging Implementation Plan that will provide more granularity as to how each of the challenges described in the Statement of Intent will be addressed. The plan will be shared with the Welsh Audit Office ahead of publication to ensure that the activities contained are consistent with the challenges and recommendations described within this report.

**Recommendation 2** – *The national implementation plan should include clear implementation dates to deliver action in the short to medium term, with clearly identified accountabilities for delivery.*

**Accept** – Welsh Government is working closely with the Strategic Programme Unit within the NHS Health Collaborative to develop the Imaging Implementation Plan. The plan will be developed in accordance with the Managing Successful Programmes (MSP) methodology and will clearly describe deliverables, milestones, objectives, outputs and outcomes for each of the areas as well as identifying those accountable for delivery.

**Recommendation 3** – *The Welsh Government should properly cost the implementation plan and ensure that the necessary resources are in place to support delivery.*

**Accept** – The resources required to support the Imaging Implementation Plan and how these will be acquired, used and shared effectively will be considered and defined by the Strategic Programme Unit in a Resource Management Strategy (MSP). Prior to approval, national imaging programme costings will be scrutinised by Welsh Government to ensure that resource allocation is proportionate to the level of activity required to achieve the desired outcome.

**Recommendation 4** – *The Welsh Government should ensure the necessary arrangements are put in place to monitor delivery of the national implementation plan.*

**Accept** – In keeping with recommendations from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development review of Healthcare Quality in the UK (2016); Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care (2016) and actions arising from Healthier Wales (2018) Welsh Government have worked closely with the NHS Health Collaborative to develop a new collaborative and nationally directed approach to strategic programmes; such as imaging (2-4). This approach supports a clearer working arrangement between NHS Wales and Welsh Government and includes regular monitoring of progress against programme activities.

## References

1. Welsh Government: Statement of Intent for Imaging (March 2018) available at: <https://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/imaging-statement-of-intent.pdf> (last accessed 11/2018)
2. Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development review of Healthcare Quality in the UK (2016). Available at: <http://www.oecd.org/health/health-systems/oecd-reviews-of-health-care-quality-united-kingdom-2016-9789264239487-en.htm> (last accessed 11/2018)
3. Parliamentary Review of Health and Social Care (2016). Available at: <https://gov.wales/topics/health/nhswales/review/?lang=en> (last accessed 11/2018)
4. Welsh Government: Healthier Wales (2018). Available at: <https://gov.wales/docs/dhss/publications/180608healthier-wales-mainen.pdf> (last accessed 11/2018)