

Dr Andrew Goodall
Director General Health & Social Services/NHS Wales
Chief Executive
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

30 January 2018

Dear Dr Goodall,

Hospital catering and patient nutrition

Thank you for your letter of 3 January which was considered in Committee on 15 January. We welcome that it has now been agreed that the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership (NWSSP) and NHS Wales Informatics Service (NWIS) will work in partnership to procure and implement a Wales wide National Nutrition and Catering IT Solution (NNCIS). We note the timeline for delivery of this set out in your letter and in your previous oral evidence on 4th December 2017.

While recognising the evidence you have provided previously about the prioritisation of this and other IT system developments, we remain seriously concerned about the length of time it has taken to reach this stage. We note that it will not be until 2019 that the framework will be made available for NHS Wales organisations to call-off from, around seven years after the Welsh Government first requested that an outline business case be developed for procuring a national system.

The long lead in time for the procurement process as set out in your letter raises questions. Specifically, we would welcome clarification on the key milestones and decision-making leading up to confirmation of the system specification, which will then enable the procurement process to commence. We would also welcome an explanation of the procurement procedure that you are expecting to follow and



how/why this dictates what appears to be at least an eight to nine month process from the start of the process to the award of the framework.

With regard to the Wales Community Care Information System (WCCIS) we note that the Gateway Review gave a Delivery Confidence Assessment of Amber and that plans are in place to ensure the key actions recommended in the report are implemented in a timely manner. However, we wish to receive further details about the key actions arising from the review, the lessons learned, how these actions will be implemented and the timescales for delivery.

The Committee is aware that any future evidence sessions looking at informatics systems in NHS Wales – following publication of the Auditor General’s recent report – will provide a further opportunity to consider issues relating to the delivery of these and other systems and the overall prioritisation of activity.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair

