



COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT/ ADRODDIAD DIWEDDARU'R PWYLLGOR

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COMMITTEE/ CYFARFOD IS- BWYLLGOR YMCHWIL AC ARLOESI

Date of last meeting/ Dyddiad y cyfarfod diwethaf/: 8 June 2026

Quoracy/ Cworwm/: Met

Report by/ Adroddiad gan:

Mark Henwood, Chair

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND MATTERS TO BE ESCALATED FROM THE DISCUSSION AT THE MEETING/ PWYNTIAU TRAFOD ALLWEDDOL A MATERION I'W HUWCHGYFEIRIO O'R DRAFODAETH YN Y CYFARFOD:

Alert¹ (may require discussion)/ **Rhybuddio** (efallai y bydd angen trafodaeth)

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee (R&ISC) have no matters they wish to **alert** to members of the Digital, Data and Innovation Committee.

Advise² (to monitor)/ **Cynghori** (i fonitro)

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee wish to **advise** members of the Digital, Data and Innovation Committee that:

- Whilst assurance was received on the 2025/26 financial close report, further work is required on both the Research & Development (R&D) and Transformation & Innovation (T&I) financial positions for 2026/27 to determine a robust financial forecast. The risk registers for both Divisions will be reviewed in view of this work, notably the R&D risk, which considers the financial position in relation to the establishment level.
- Delays continue to be experienced by the TriTech and Innovation Team in respect of Digital Clearances. These affect both national and local services and appear to reflect the volume of requests being managed. Without resolution, the Innovation Team is likely to lose contracts for projects that could bring about patient and public benefits.
- The update on the R&D Risk Register highlighted concerns associated with Research Delivery Funding allocations, affordability and the sustainability of the establishment. The current risk score may require an increase pending further financial detail and review of mitigating actions.

¹ There is a lack of confidence that any action in place is sufficient to address the issue satisfactorily and/or within the scope of the operational team or executive to resolve. Engagement, action or intervention required.

² There are areas of concern where assurance has been taken on actions in place but requires close monitoring. An early warning of an emerging and potentially serious concern.

- Received assurance from the TriTech and Innovation Finance Report and the 2025/26 year-end financial position, whilst noting that further work is required to finalise the 2026/27 position.
- The update on the TriTech and Innovation Risk Register highlighted concerns relating to regulatory uncertainty and Information Governance delays, with a review of risk scores and mitigating actions underway in light of ongoing impacts on project delivery.

Assure³ (to note)/ Sicrhau (i nodi)

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee wish to assure members of the Digital, Data and Innovation Committee that they:

- Noted the update on R&D national developments.
- While assurance was received regarding the 2025/26 year-end financial position from the R&D Finance and Establishment Report, the Sub-Committee was not assured regarding the financial sustainability of the 2026/27..
- Received assurance from the R&D and Activity and Performance Reports including delivery against national benchmarks and recognition through nominations for two Moondance Awards, and progress across a range of key projects.
- The Researcher Development Report reflected positive progress in building research capacity and supporting early-stage researchers, with a focus on increasing externally funded studies and regional collaboration.
- Received assurance from the Research Quality and Sponsorship Group report, including completion of the 2025/26 audit programme, planned audits for 2026/27.
- Received assurance from the Commercial Research progress report, including growth in key study areas, delivery against Voluntary Scheme for Branded Medicines Pricing, Access and Growth (VPAG) targets and ongoing partnership development.
- The Sub-Committee received the Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) Finance Policy and approved the localised approach.
- The update on the Cancer Pathways Programme confirmed the completion of the Task and Finish Group and development of implementation plans.
- The update on the Intellectual Property Policy outlined ongoing work to localise the HCRW template and explore alignment with partners across the region.
- The update on Welsh Government requirements highlighted feedback from the annual review and associated actions relating to strategic planning, partnerships, communications and research priorities, alongside ongoing

³ There is confidence that actions are robust and will be sufficient to address the issue or generally operating effectively. Routine monitoring.

discussions regarding Research Delivery Funding (RDF) compliance and primary care research challenges.

- Assurance was received from the Novel Technologies commercialisation update, including the cessation of one commercialisation opportunity due to a company going into liquidation. This presents no financial risk to Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) and Aberystwyth University, who was leading the commercialisation, are working to identify alternative partners following the appropriate governance arrangements, which will include HDdUHB at the appropriate point.
- The University Partnerships update highlighted continued progress to strengthen collaborative activity across research, innovation and education.
- Received assurance from the TriTech and Innovation Activity Report, including progress of projects aligned to Health Board priorities, continued delivery against the business plan and ongoing portfolio development, whilst noting sustained demand on capacity.
- The TriTech and Innovation Business Plan performance update provided assurance relating to the delivery of the majority of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) and positive progress in implementing the new framework.
- The update on TriTech and Innovation outlined national developments, including across Wales collaborative work.
- Received assurance from the Social Innovation report.
- Assurance received from the Research and Innovation Strategic Plan and action plan update, including good overall progress and agreement to the proposed actions for 2026/27.
- The update on Pentre Awel demonstrated continued progress and positive integration within the wider health and wellbeing community.

Review of Risks/ Adolygiad o Risgiau

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee reviewed the R&D Risk Register and were advised that the ongoing risk relating to RDF remains a concern, with pressures on financial sustainability and establishment. Members noted that the current risk score may require an increase pending further financial clarity and acknowledged that mitigating actions will be informed by a clearer understanding of the 2026/27 position. Monitoring of this risk continues through the R&D Leadership Group.

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee also reviewed the TriTech and Innovation Risk Register and were advised that risks relating to uncertainty regarding Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) regulatory changes and Information Governance delays remain. Members noted that ongoing delays, including those experienced at a national level, are impacting project delivery and timelines.

Sharing of learning/ Rhannu dysgu

Not applicable

Recommendation/ Argymhelliad

The Committee is asked to:



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Hywel Dda
University Health Board

- Note the items the Sub-Committee is advising them of
- Receive assurance from the items that the Sub-Committee is providing assurance on
-
-

Date of next meeting/ Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf:

14 September 2026

Agenda, papers and minutes are available on request