

COMMITTEE UPDATE REPORT/ ADRODDIAD DIWEDDARU'R RESEARCH & INNOVATION SUB-COMMITTEE (R&ISC))

Date of last meeting/ Dyddiad y cyfarfod diwethaf:

10 December 2025 (Extraordinary Research & Innovation Sub-Committee (R&ISC))

18 December 2025 (R&ISC)

Quoracy/ Cworwm: Met on both occasions

Report by/ Adroddiad gan: Mark Henwood, Chair

KEY DISCUSSION POINTS AND MATTERS 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 (DDIC).

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

The Research and Innovation Sub-Committee have no matters that they wish to **advise** members of the DDIC of.

Assure³ (to note)/ **Sicrhau** (i nodi)

Research and Innovation Sub-Committee wishes to assure members of the DDIC, that they:

- Received assurance from the financial position for Research and Development (R&D), with a plan to cover the shortfall within the Medical Directorate.
- Received assurance from the performance within the R&D delivery and support functions, recognising a continued positive recruitment figure to date for 2025/26. Members also noted the recent success that HDdUHB R&D were the first site in the UK to recruit to two commercial research studies. This positive news has been shared with Health and Care Research Wales (HCRW) and reported to Welsh Government (WG).

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.

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

- Noted the Research and Innovation (R&I) Strategic Plan 2025-30 annual assessment against the national HCRW research framework, with progress on the accompanying objectives accepted.
- Received assurance from the activities of the Research Quality and Sponsorship Group (RQSG).
- Noted the intent from WG to audit NHS organisations on their compliance with Research Delivery Funding grant award. R&D will undertake minor actions to address the four categories, with no concerns raised against current compliance.
- Noted the progress against the commitments for each university partner, as well as updates on activity.
- Received assurance from the TriTech and Innovation (T&I) financial position and activity report.
- Received assurance from the T&I progress against the business plan and were informed that Key Performance Indicator (KPI) relating to Intellectual Property 9 (IP)) was not met, due to recent contracted projects not including new IP. The revised TriTech Business Plan 2026-31 was presented and discussed at the extraordinary R&ISC meeting on 10 December 2025. Members responded positively and approved the Plan.
- Received assurance from the progress on development of the Centre for Social Innovation (CfSI) at University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD).
- The Pentre Awel project has experienced further delays and expected occupancy for Research and Innovation is likely quarter 3 of 2026/27. As such, an extension to the lease at Dura Park, Llanelli has been requested.

Review of Risks/ Adolygiad o Risgiau

The Research and Development (R&D) Risk Register was discussed, and members were advised that the target score for the remaining risk (1492 – Risk to research delivery funding) will be formally reviewed and will likely increase due to the continued financial shortfall. Alternative sources of finance are being utilised to cover the overspend and a wider financial projection for the next three years is being undertaken, which will inform a further review, or consideration to close the risk. Monitoring of this risk continues through the R&D Leadership Group.

Members noted an emerging risk in relation to the Health Board (HB) Information Governance (IG). IG is a crucial aspect of R&D in developing our own (sponsored) studies and in the development or purchase of new ways of working e.g. software applications, however significant delays have been experienced and therefore highlighted at the R&D Leadership Group to explore the issue further. The Director of Research, Innovation and Value and the Executive Medical Director have initiated conversations with relevant colleagues to facilitate a resolution.

The R&ISC also reviewed the two TriTech and Innovation risks that are aligned to it. There was no change to the score for risk 1511 (regulatory climate). Risk 1508 (lack of wider organisation support) increased from 6 to 12 in light of the emerging risk arising from significant delays in digital support for projects. These delays are impacting approval timelines which in turn create financial exposure and threaten delivery against agreed milestones.

Recommendation/ Argymhelliad

The Committee is asked to:

- **Take assurance** from the items that the Sub- Committee is providing assurance on

Date of next meeting/ Dyddiad y cyfarfod nesaf: 02 March 2026

Agenda, papers and minutes are available on request.