



**CYFARFOD BWRDD PRIFYSGOL IECHYD
UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD MEETING**

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	28 September 2023
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Laboratory Information Network Cymru (LINC) Update
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Andrew Carruthers, Executive Director of Operations
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Dylan Jones, Head of Pathology Services

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Gwybodaeth/For Information

ADRODDIAD SCAA

SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

This report provides the Board with an update on the progress of the deployment of the all Wales laboratory information management system, (LIMS).

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the activity and progress undertaken by the LINC Programme Board to date in preparation of system deployment across the Health Boards.

Cefndir / Background

The aim of the Laboratory Information Network Cymru (LINC) Programme was to enable the development of modern; safe, sustainable pathology services through end-to-end information systems and services. It underpins the delivery of the Welsh Government Pathology Statement of Intent. A key component was to further standardise pathology services across Wales, through the procurement and implementation of a standardised laboratory information management system (LIMS) service.

In 2021, the LINC programme appointed Citadel Health as the successful supplier to implement a replacement LIMS by June 2025; however, in Quarter 1 of Financial Year 2023/24, this contract was terminated, which required the LIMS contingency project to be invoked. The deadline to replace the legacy Wales LIMS (WLIMS1) by June 2025 remains the same, as the current system, TrakCareLab 2016 LIMS will be out of contractual support.

Following several meetings with the existing supplier InterSystems and NHS Wales, an agreement was reached to enter into a new contract with InterSystems and upgrade the current LIMS product. The LIMS contingency project requires WLIMS1 (TCL 2016) to be upgraded to InterSystems latest and supported product, TrakCare Lab Enterprise (TCLe). The contract with InterSystems will be for a further 5 years. The LIMS Contingency project is to be completed in 2 years (instead of 4 years for LINC), resulting in a much reduced and focused scope to ensure a fully supported LIMS can be delivered for Wales by June 2025.

As a consequence of the new LIMS contingency project, the programme title has also changed, moving away from LINC to LIMS 2.0. In future, all correspondence will utilise the name LIMS 2.0.

Asesiad / Assessment

The scope of the LIMS 2.0 project is to deliver a fully operational and supported LIMS for NHS Wales, and to ensure continuity of pathology services by June 2025, is as follows:

In scope

- **Commercial/Legal** – executing Contract Change Notice (CCN) with InterSystems (ISC) to upgrade TCL 2016 to TCLe and to extend the ISC contract by 5 years (from June 2025 to June 2030)
- **Technical Upgrade** – complete technical upgrade of WLIMS1/TCL 2016 to TCLe ('lift and shift' configuration, tests / test sets, reference ranges and other static data from TCL 2016 to TCLe)
- **Hosted Infrastructure** – migrate infrastructure for Wales LIMS from NHS Wales DataCentres to 'private cloud' hosted solution (provisioned by ISC in their UK DataCentres)
- **Pathology disciplines** – implement LIMS solution from 'Test Request to Result Reporting' covering the following pathology disciplines: Blood Sciences; Blood Transfusion; Microbiology; Cellular Pathology/Mortuary; Screening Services – Cervical Screening/Newborn Bloodspot Screening (NBBS); Andrology
- **Standardisation** – standardisation of pathology services will be further accelerated by implementing pathology tests/test sets already agreed for standardisation, but not yet implemented on WLIMS1
- **Legacy Data** – a 'minimum viable dataset' will be migrated from TCL2016 into TCLe in order to maintain an operational LIMS service; legacy test results will continue to be accessible via the Welsh Results Reporting Service (WRRS)
- **National Interfaces** (a single instance of an interface used by multiple HBs/Trusts, usually controlled centrally). National interfaces which integrate with TCL2016 today will 'lift & shift' to TCLe, e.g., Welsh Clinical Portal (WCP) for booking tests; Welsh Results Reporting Service (WRRS) for reporting test results
- **Local Interfaces** (specific to 1 or more HBs/Trusts, usually controlled locally). Local interfaces which integrate with TCL2016 today will 'lift & shift' to TCLe, e.g., integration to analysers / analyser middleware
- **Analytics/Reporting** – ISC will provide an analytics/reporting capability from their core LIMS product and reporting tool
- **3rd party systems:**
 - **Blood Tracking (Interface)** – interface to Blood Tracking (Haemonetics) for local Health Board instances will 'lift & shift' from TCL2016 to TCLe
 - **Scanning (Upload)** – TCLe will facilitate scanned images/other electronic files to be uploaded from a desktop PC file explorer and attached to an episode

Out of scope (EXCLUSIONS)

It is important for the Board to recognise that there will be some elements of services which are currently out of scope and will require further scoping, such as:

- **3rd party systems:**
 - **Blood Tracking (All Wales Instance / Supplier management)** – a single 'once for Wales' blood tracking instance for Haemonetics will **not** be provided; each HB will continue to support and maintain their own local instances of Blood tracking

(Haemonetics); ISC will **not** manage blood tracking supplier (Haemonetics) and their individual instances on behalf of HBs

- **Scanning** – a scanning solution (application/scanner) which integrates with TCLe will **not** be provided other than the ability to store scanned images/electronic files as explained in the in-scope section above; ISC will **not** manage any 3rd party scanning systems/scanners or suppliers.
- **Voice** – a voice recognition / voice to text solution which integrates with TCLe will **not** be provided; ISC will **not** manage any 3rd party voice products or suppliers.
- **Prometheus / Welsh Transplantation & Immunogenetics Laboratory (WTAIL)** – this system will not integrate with TCLe and is outside the scope of this project (no change from LINC scope)
- **COVID results from NHS England (Welsh Patients)** – these test results will **not** be uploaded to TCLe (volume circa. 250 per day); these results are likely to be uploaded to DataStore
- **National Pathology Exchange (NPEX)** – as this service is not currently live / operational in TCL2016, this capability will not be delivered in TCLe (any deployment of NPEX will be subject to a future CCN)

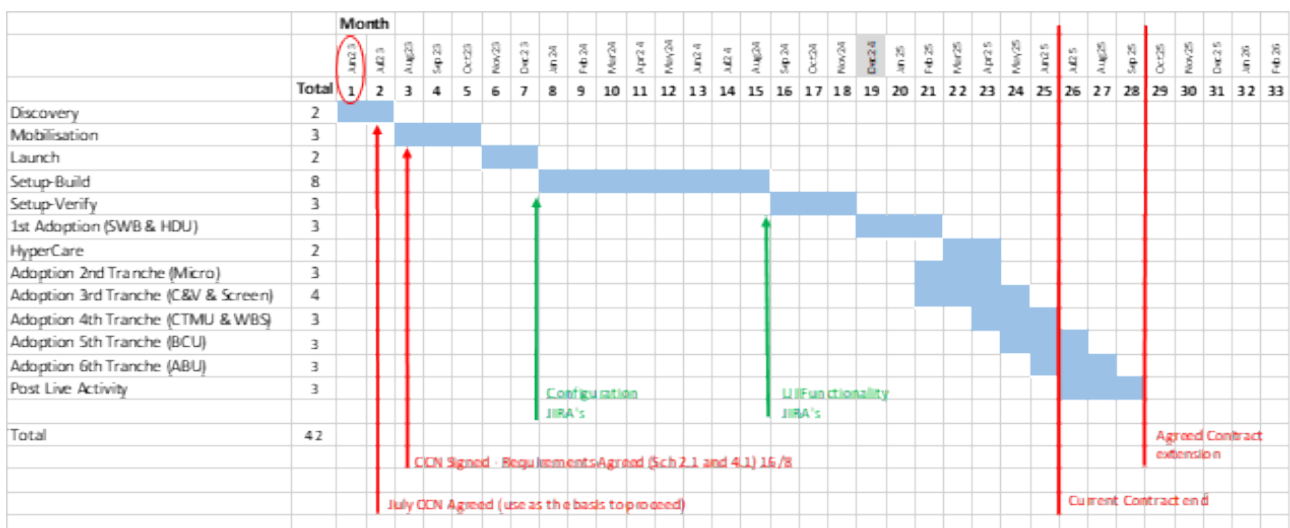
The 3rd party systems that are out of scope are not currently operational in the Health Board and consequently there is no deterioration in service; however, these additional benefits, which formed party of the LINC specification, will not be included. Different workstreams under the National Pathology Programme will review these systems separately to the LIMS 2.0 programme in the future.

Programme Objectives

Following the new contract agreement, a revised set of objectives for LIMS 2.0 have been developed, they are as follows:

- Provide NHS Wales with continuity of pathology services from June 2025 (when current LIMS is out of contractual support)
- Provide NHS Wales with a fully supported LIMS system from June 2025
- Provide NHS Wales with a LIMS system with contractual support for a further 5 years (June 2025 to June 2030)
- Continue to drive standardisation of Pathology Services (facilitated / accelerated by the upgrade to TCLe)

Proposed Programme Timeline and Milestones



The Contract Change Notification (CCN) for the LIMS 2.0 contingency plan has now been signed by all Health Boards and Trusts. At their August 2023 Board, Digital Health and Care Wales (DHCW) formally approved the new contract agreement.

The LIMS 2.0 Programme has now entered the mobilisation phase with supplier InterSystems. This phase follows the discovery phase, where InterSystems gathered a range of information from the programme, Health Boards and Trusts to help scope the programme. This also included datasets and example workflows which will help them build a test environment which they can handover to us at the end of October 2023.

Running from 1 August to the end of October 2023, this phase aims to agree the plan, secure the required resources, and finalise the scope ahead of the anticipated project launch in November 2023.

Revised deployment order

The new deployment order for LIMS 2.0 is as follows. We estimate that, with current timelines, the deployment should conclude by October 2025.

Health board/ Discipline	Estimated go-live date
Swansea Bay and Hywel Dda University Health Boards (UHB)	28/02/2025
Public Health Wales and Microbiology	30/04/2025
Cardiff and Vale UHB and Screening Services	31/05/2025
Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and Welsh Blood Services	30/06/2025
Betsi Cadwaladr UHB	31/07/2025
Aneurin Bevan UHB	31/08/2025

Risks

The risk to the Health Board associated with this programme has been captured in Datix, reference no. 1526. The risk assessment captures the risk of failure to deliver the Pathology Service due to potential lack of LIMS system.

The impact to the Health Board has changed recently, due to the change in order of deployment. Previously, Hywel Dda University Health Board was last to be deployed, which increased the risk to the Health Board due to the reliance of other deployments keeping to time and lack of buffer before contract expiry. With the change to deployment order, the risk of not deploying before contract expiry is less; however, by being first, the Health Board may experience implementation issues not picked up in the testing phase.

Financial Implications

The financial impact of changes in commercial arrangements to the Health Board is as follows:

- The net cost over the term is a reduction of £190,000 compared to the original Full Business Case (FBC) for LINC.
- The revised costs over the term are as below:

Table 2 - Assessed FBC revenue cost profile by organisation

Organisation	Total LINC Costs per Annum by Organisation										
	2021-22 £'000	2022-23 £'000	2023-24 £'000	2024-25 £'000	2025-26 £'000	2026-27 £'000	2027-28 £'000	2028-29 £'000	2029-30 £'000	2030-31 £'000	Total £'000
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	226	235	167	168	499	608	608	608	608	153	3,880
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	268	277	197	197	650	709	709	709	709	177	4,602
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board	167	174	141	141	669	614	614	614	614	153	3,901
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	180	187	127	127	383	364	364	364	364	91	2,551
Hywel Dda University Health Board	152	157	110	152	560	431	431	431	431	108	2,963
Powys HB	56	41	39	39	19	0	0	0	0	0	194
Public Health Wales NHS Trust	12	12	9	9	40	33	33	33	33	8	222
Swansea Bay University Health Board	152	157	109	164	709	560	560	560	560	140	3,671
DHCW	0	0	0	0	0	566	566	566	566	141	2,405
Sub-total Revenue	1,213	1,240	899	997	3,529	3,885	3,885	3,885	3,885	971	24,389
Welsh Government	784	934	919	950	950	0	0	0	0	0	4,537
Total Revenue	1,997	2,174	1,818	1,947	4,479	3,885	3,885	3,885	3,885	971	28,926

- Detailed costs for Health Board are as below:

	£										
	Apr 2021 - Mar 2022	Apr 2022 - Mar 2023	Apr 2023 - Mar 2024	Apr 2024 - Mar 2025	Apr 2025 - Mar 2026	Apr 2026 - Mar 2027	Apr 2027 - Mar 2028	Apr 2028 - Mar 2029	Apr 2029 - Mar 2030	Apr 2030 - Mar 2031	Total
Hywel Dda University Health Board											
Programme Cost	151,622	156,574	109,559	109,559	54,779	0	0	0	0	0	582,093
3rd Party Supplier											
Intersystems	0	0	0	20,742	244,219	244,219	244,219	244,219	244,219	61,055	1,302,892
Other 3rd Party Suppliers	0	0	0	577	6,788	6,788	6,788	6,788	6,788	1,697	36,214
Total 3rd Party Supplier Costs	0	0	0	21,319	251,007	251,007	251,007	251,007	251,007	62,752	1,339,106
Central Costs											
Networking	0	0	0	1,106	13,027	13,027	13,027	13,027	13,027	3,257	69,498
DHCW Central Costs	0	0	0	14,733	173,474	173,474	173,474	173,474	173,474	43,368	925,471
Change & Development	0	0	0	1,106	13,027	13,027	13,027	13,027	13,027	3,257	69,498
National Quality Management	0	0	0	4,615	54,338	54,338	54,338	54,338	54,338	13,585	289,890
Total Central Costs	0	0	0	21,560	253,866	253,866	253,866	253,866	253,866	63,467	1,354,357
DHCW Contribution	0	0	0	0	0	-73,693	-73,693	-73,693	-73,693	-18,423	-313,195
Net Total Costs	151,622	156,574	109,559	152,438	559,652	431,180	431,180	431,180	431,180	107,796	2,962,361

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Board is asked to **RECEIVE** for information the LINC (now LIMS 2.0) update and progress report.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau) Objectives: (must be completed)	
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Risk 1526. Score 8
Parthau Ansawdd: Domains of Quality Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	1. Safe 5. Equitable 2. Timely
Galluogwyr Ansawdd: Enablers of Quality: Quality and Engagement Act (sharepoint.com)	1. Leadership 3. Data to knowledge
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	3. Striving to deliver and develop excellent services 5. Safe sustainable, accessible and kind care
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	5c Digital Strategy
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2021-2022	4. Improve Population Health through prevention and early intervention, supporting people to live happy and healthy lives

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Not Applicable
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	DHCW - Digital Health and Care Wales. In this content the Contracting Authority for these LIMS contracts ISC - InterSystems Corporation – the incumbent supplier of a laboratory management system to Wales LIMS - Laboratory Information Management System LINC - Laboratory Information Network Cymru
Partion / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Cyfarfod Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol: Parties / Committees consulted prior to University Health Board:	None

Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Detailed information is included within the report and within the Economic and Financial Cases of the Full Business Case.
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	Information around the benefits to patients is included within the Management and Strategic Case, of the Full Business Case.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	The workforce implications of the deployment of a new system are included throughout the business case.
Risg: Risk:	There is a risk from the loss of time from historical delays, which have resulted in a much shorter timeframe within which to implement the new solution and increases the risk that the implementation will not be completed within the time available. To mitigate this risk there will be a need to minimise configuration changes and the programme will need to be prioritised over other activity, nationally and locally, with Health Boards and DHCW aligning and protecting resources across operational and digital teams.
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Detailed information around the legal implications of not having a laboratory system are included within the Strategic Case.
Enw Da: Reputational:	The lack of a laboratory system is a significant risk to patient care, and therefore would greatly affect the reputation of not only the Health Board but NHS Wales.
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not Applicable
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Not Applicable