

24 Cathedral Road / Heol y Gadeirlan  
Cardiff / Caerdydd  
CF11 9LJ  
Tel / Ffôn: 029 20 320510  
Fax / Ffacs: 029 20 320555  
www.wao.gov.uk

Mr Jonathan Morgan AM  
Chair of the Audit Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1 NA

Email / Ebdost: jeremy.colman@wao.gov.uk  
PA / CP Fiona Bashford, fiona.bashford@wao.gov.uk

Date	19 May 2009
Our reference	JC/fgb
Your reference	
Tel No	029 20320510
Fax No	029 20320600
E-mail	jeremy.colman@wao.gov.uk
Pages	1 of 2

Dear Mr Morgan

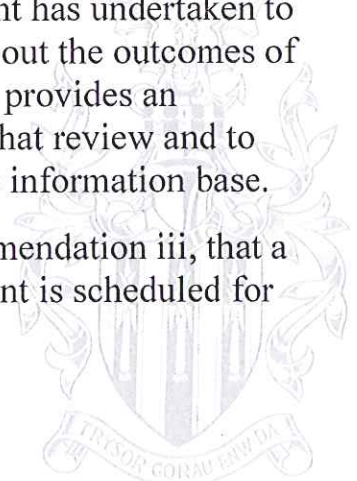
**ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE AUDIT  
COMMITTEE REPORT ON *THE MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC  
CONDITIONS BY NHS WALES***

The Clerk's letter of 5 May requested my advice on the responses received by the Audit Committee with regard to its report on *The management of chronic conditions by NHS Wales*.

The Audit Committee's report set out four recommendations, the first of which asked for a response to the seven recommendations contained in my own earlier report on this subject. There are thus ten recommendations in total. The Assembly Government has responded positively to my recommendations and those of the Audit Committee, accepting all ten recommendations in full.

The Committee expressed concern about the lack of consistent and robust information in order to plan chronic condition services. In response to the Committee's recommendation ii, the Assembly Government has undertaken to provide the Committee in June 2009 with its report setting out the outcomes of the Community Services Information Review. That report provides an opportunity for the Committee to consider the findings of that review and to clarify the Assembly Government's plans to strengthen the information base.

I am pleased to see, in response to the Committee's recommendation iii, that a workshop for NHS leads for chronic conditions management is scheduled for



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June 2009 to share the learning from implementing the Chronic Conditions Model and Framework at the three Demonstrator sites. The timing of this workshop is well in advance of that originally planned for spring 2010. In addition to the learning workshop, a National Demonstrator Steering Group is carrying out visits to the Demonstrator sites to assess performance and their reporting measures.

In its recommendation iii, the Committee also asked for detail on the arrangements for monitoring the impact of transitional funding. The Assembly Government response sets out that each health organisation was required to submit clear expenditure plans detailing their objectives, costings and evidence of outputs and outcomes. A Funding Advisory Panel has considered each application to ensure that conditions and criteria for funding have been met. As part of the performance management arrangements, the new NHS bodies will be required to submit a mid-year progress report against these original expenditure plans. In addition to the more usual performance management arrangements, officials intend to undertake visits during autumn 2009 to ensure compliance with the criteria for transitional funding.

In response to the Committee's recommendation iv, the Assembly Government has confirmed that the Transition Directors submitted local delivery plans for chronic conditions, aligned to the new NHS organisational structures. The Assembly Government says that it will manage progress against these plans throughout the NHS reorganisation.

I shall of course draw the Committee's attention to any issues arising from my ongoing work in related areas.

Yours sincerely

N. Gibbs

PP **Jeremy Colman**  
**Auditor General for Wales**