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Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol
Bae Abertawe
Swansea Bay University
Health Board



Meeting Date	18th May 2023	Agenda Item	3.4
Report Title	Losses and Special Payments Update		
Report Author	Andrew Biston, Assistant Director of Finance (Accounting & Governance)		
Report Sponsor	Darren Griffiths, Director of Finance and Performance		
Presented by	Andrew Biston, Assistant Director of Finance (Accounting & Governance)		
Freedom of Information	Open		
Purpose of the Report	To provide the Audit Committee with an update on losses and special payments for the period 1 st December 2022 to 31 st March 2023 and to provide a comparison to the losses and special payments made in the period 1 st December to 31 st March 2022.		
Key Issues	<p>The losses and special payments recorded during the period 1st December 2022 to 31st March 2023 totalled £13,218,642 of which £12,673,894 is recoverable from the Welsh Risk Pool, meaning that the actual loss to the Health Board in the period totals £544,748.</p> <p>Of the losses and special payments made in the period a total of £360,827 related to cases pre 31st March 2019 for locations which transferred to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board on 1st April 2019 of which the actual loss after recoveries are taken into account was £62,509.</p> <p>After the recoveries from Welsh Risk Pool are taken into account, there is a net loss of £1,671,712 to the Health Board for the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 which is lower than the net loss of £2,279,621 for the comparable period 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.</p> <p>As in previous years the Welsh Risk Pool risk sharing agreement has been invoked for 2022/23 with the health board's contribution amounting to £4.092m.</p>		
Specific Action Required <i>(please ✓ one only)</i>	Information	Discussion	Assurance
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Recommendations	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note the losses and special payments made in the period which will need to be reported to the Board 		

LOSSES AND SPECIAL PAYMENTS UPDATE

1. INTRODUCTION

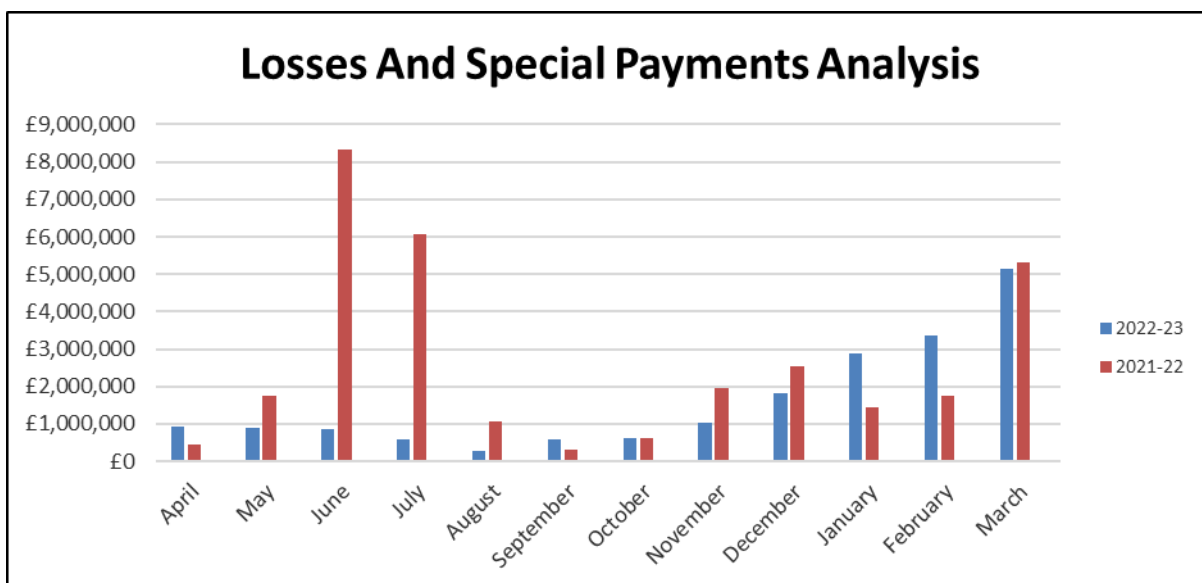
- 1.1. The Audit Committee handbook recommends that losses and special payments made by the Health Board be reported to the Audit Committee. This report addresses that requirement by providing an update on losses and special payments, for the period 1st December 2022 to 31st March 2023 and a comparison to the period 1st December 2021 to 31st March 2022.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The losses and special payments recorded during the period totalled £13,218,642 with the majority of this comprising payments in respect of Clinical Negligence, Redress and Personal Injury.
- 2.2. These losses are detailed in **Appendices A to I** and summarised below:

Loss Type	Value £
Obsolete Drug Stock	4,251
Ex Gratia Payments	10,555
Bad Debts Written Off	30,639
Redress Payments	73,240
GP Indemnity Payments	43,036
Clinical Negligence - Defence Fees	252,299
Clinical Negligence – Claimant Costs	1,043,045
Clinical Negligence – Damages	11,532,082
Clinical Negligence – CRU Payments	81,966
Personal Injury – Defence Fees	61,503
Personal Injury – Claimant Costs	69,151
Personal Injury - Damages	15,500
Personal Injury CRU Payments	1,376
Total	13,218,642

- 2.3. The gross loss of £13,218,642 for the period 1st December 2022 to 31st March 2023 compares to a gross loss of £11,045,967 for the period 1st December 2021 to 31st March 2022. The chart below analyses these losses and special payments on a month by month basis.



2.4. The graph above confirms that there will be variations in payments across the year with there being no discernible trend to when cases are settled. The high value of payments during the months of June and July 2021 and March 2022 was mainly due to three large settlement payments over £2m amounting to £12,334,664 as detailed in the table below.

Case Reference	Location	Specialty	Amount (£)
10RYMMN0212	Princess of Wales Hospital	Obstetrics	5,084,474
15RYMMN0151	Singleton Hospital	Obstetrics	4,914,339
15RYMMN0040	Morrison Hospital	Neurology	2,335,851

For the period December 2022 to March 2023 there have been three settlements of £500,000 or above in value and two accrued amounts due for settlement early in the new financial year. The amounts accrued have been requested by Welsh Risk Pool under the heading of transfer from provisions to creditors as part of their year end closedown process.

Case Reference	Location	Specialty	Amount (£)
18RYMMN0122	Neath Port Talbot Hospital	Women and Child Health	£500,000 paid and £500,000 due for settlement
14RYMMN0136	Neath Port Talbot Hospital	Orthopaedics	£2,375,228 paid
19RYMMN0003	Singleton Hospital	Obstetrics	£2,787,800 paid
18RYMMN0107	Morrison Hospital	Orthopaedics	£1,600,000 due for settlement

2.5. The Committee is reminded that as part of the transfer of assets and liabilities arising from the Bridgend boundary change, the transfer order included an

exception to the principle that all assets and liabilities transfer for clinical negligence, personal injury and redress cases which were open prior to the date of transfer. Therefore this report includes payments on cases prior to 31st March 2019 for the Princess of Wales Hospital and will continue to do so until all those cases have closed, a process which will take several years. For the period December to March 2023, the gross losses split by the post boundary change location for these cases is shown in the table below, with the detail shown in **Appendices B, D and F** to this report.

Loss Type	Total (£)	Swansea Bay Locations (£)	Cwm Taf Morgannwg Locations (£)
Clinical Negligence	12,909,391	12,554,935	354,456
Personal Injury	147,530	147,179	351
Redress	73,240	67,220	6,020
Total	13,130,161	12,769,334	360,827

As at 31st March 2023, the number of open cases for which the health board has a provision in its accounts in these 3 categories analysed by location is as follows:

Type of claim	Open Cases Swansea Bay Locations	Open cases Cwm Taf Morgannwg Locations
Clinical Negligence	227	35
Personal injury	47	2
Redress	88	2

3. GOVERNANCE AND RISK ISSUES

- 3.1. This paper addresses the financial governance requirements for reporting Losses and Special Payments to the Audit Committee. The Health Board adheres to the authorisation process for such payments as prescribed in the Welsh Government Losses and Special Payments manual and Standing Financial Instructions ensuring sound financial governance for such payments
- 3.2. The clinical governance issues raised and lessons learned from previous claims are discussed as part of the clinical governance agenda and do not form part of this report to the Audit Committee.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1. The financial implications associated with Losses and Special Payments for the Health Board comprise two elements. Firstly, there is the amount directly taken from the health budget by Welsh Government to fund the Welsh Risk Pool. This is supplemented by a risk sharing agreement across NHS Wales which requires additional contributions to be made from Health Boards and Trusts in the event that the amount required by Welsh Risk Pool exceeds this directly funded amount.

- 4.2. For each of the last 3 financial years, the risk sharing agreement has been invoked due to the value of settlements exceeding the amount of the top sliced funding. The risk sharing agreement has again been invoked for 2022/23 and the Swansea Bay share of the additional costs for 2022/23 amounts to £4.092m, this amount to be deducted from the health board's resource allocation.
- 4.3. The second implication is the net charge to the Health Board's resource limit of costs incurred which comprise the first £25,000 of all clinical negligence and personal injury claims, legal fees for redress claims which are not reimbursed under the Putting Things Right Scheme and the cost of all other losses and special payments.
- 4.4. Of the £13,218,642 paid out in the period 1st December 2022 to 31st March 2023 and due for payment at 31st March 2023, £12,563,069 in respect of clinical negligence and personal injury claims and £110,825 in respect of redress claims and GP Indemnity Payments is recoverable from the Welsh Risk Pool. Taking this recovery into account, the actual loss to the Health Board in the period totals £544,748.

Losses & Special Payments	Amount £
Clinical Negligence	12,909,391
Personal Injury	147,530
Redress Payments	73,240
GP Indemnity	43,036
Obsolete Drug Stock	4,251
Ex Gratia Payments	10,555
Bad Debts Written Off	30,639
Sub Total	13,218,642
Less WRP Recovery	-12,563,069
Less Redress and GMPI Payments Reimbursed by WRP	-110,825
Health Board Losses in the Period	544,748

- 4.5. Analysing this by location, the net cost to the health board split between those cases which are Swansea Bay cases and those pre 31st March 2019 cases relating to locations which have transferred to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board is as detailed in the table below, which shows that £62,509 relates to cases prior to 31st March 2019 for locations which transferred to Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board on 1st April 2019.

Loss Type	Total (£)	Swansea Bay Locations (£)	Cwm Taf Morgannwg Locations (£)
Clinical Negligence	435,838	373,700	62,138
Personal Injury	58,013	57,662	351
Redress	5,452	5,432	20
Other Losses	45,445	45,445	0

Total	544,748	482,239	62,509
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4.6. After the recoveries from Welsh Risk Pool are taken into account, the net loss totals £1,671,712 for the period 1st April to 31st March 2023 as compared to £2,279,621 for the period 1st April to 31st March 2022.

5. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to:

- **Note** the losses and special payments made in the period which will need to be reported to the Board

Governance and Assurance		
Link to Enabling Objectives <i>(please choose)</i>	Supporting better health and wellbeing by actively promoting and empowering people to live well in resilient communities	
	Partnerships for Improving Health and Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Co-Production and Health Literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Health and Wellbeing	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Deliver better care through excellent health and care services achieving the outcomes that matter most to people	
	Best Value Outcomes and High Quality Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Partnerships for Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Excellent Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Digitally Enabled Care	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outstanding Research, Innovation, Education and Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Health and Care Standards		
<i>(please choose)</i>	Staying Healthy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Safe Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Effective Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Dignified Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Timely Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Individual Care	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Staff and Resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Quality, Safety and Patient Experience		
<p>Expenditure on losses and special payments arises as a result of clinical negligence resulting in harm to patients and is therefore reflective of poor quality and safety and patient experience. Similarly personal injury payments to patients, visitors and staff reflects poor procedures and management of the hospital environment. Ex-gratia payments also result in poor patient experience through the loss or damage to personal items.</p> <p>It is therefore imperative that the number and value of losses payments is reduced and the achievement of this reduction will result in improved quality, safety and patient experience.</p>		
Financial Implications		
The financial implications are detailed in the main body of the report.		
Legal Implications (including equality and diversity assessment)		
The legal aspects of clinical negligence, personal injury and redress cases are managed through the solicitors employed by Legal and Risk Services who form part of the NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership. The day to day administration of the claims is managed by the Patient Feedback Team within the health board, acting on the advice received from Legal and Risk Services.		
Staffing Implications		
There are no direct staffing implications associated with this report.		

Long Term Implications (including the impact of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015)

The key issue for the “The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, 5 ways of working is that loss payments and incidents of clinical negligence and personal injury reflect the fact that incidents which cause harm/loss have taken place. It is essential that the occurrence of such incidents is reduced through improved processes, governance and prevention in order to help the health board as a public body meet the objective of doing no harm.

Report History

This is a regular report to the Audit Committee in line with the agreed work plan.

Appendices

Appendices A to I provide the details of all losses and special payments made in the period 1st December 2022 to 31st March 2023.