

Swansea Bay Health Board Funds Held on Trust – Audit Plan 2026

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For further information, or if you require any of our publications in an alternative format and/or language, please contact us by telephone on 029 2032 0500, or email info@audit.wales.

We welcome correspondence and telephone calls in Welsh and English. Corresponding in Welsh will not lead to delay. Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg. This document is also available in Welsh.

Introduction



**Catherine
Mealing-Jones**

Auditor General
for Wales

I am pleased to share my 2026 Audit Plan. The Plan sets out how I will undertake your audit.

My audit team has developed the Plan following a structured and risk-based planning process, which will remain ongoing throughout the audit. My [Code of Audit Practice](#) provides further detail on how my audit and certain other functions are to be carried out by my auditors.

At the core of all our work is our commitment to maintaining the highest standards of professional integrity, objectivity, independence and audit quality. Our three

lines of assurance model (page 14) sets out how we will ensure those standards of quality are met. Our latest annual [audit quality report](#) provides more information about our audit quality arrangements.

My audit team will work constructively with your staff to understand the issues you are facing, ensure the audit process operates as smoothly as possible, and provide valuable insights about any areas for improvement.

My work programme, as outlined in this Plan, sits alongside other [national audit work](#) that may include coverage of your organisation.

Should you have any questions about your audit my audit team will be happy to discuss them with you. They will also keep you regularly updated as work progresses.

Our aims and ambitions

Our purpose



Assure people that public money is being managed well



Explain how that money is being spent



Inspire the public sector to improve

Our vision



Fully exploiting our unique perspective, expertise and depth of insight



Strengthening our position as an authoritative, trusted and independent voice



Increasing our visibility, influence, and relevance



Being a model organisation for the public sector in Wales and beyond

Our areas of focus



A strategic, dynamic, and high-quality audit programme



A targeted and impactful approach to communications and influencing



A culture and operating model that enables us to thrive

You can find out more about Audit Wales in our [Annual Plan 2025-26](#) and Our [Strategy 2022-27](#).

Financial audit work

Audit of financial statements

I am required to issue a report on your financial statements which includes an opinion on their 'truth and fairness', their proper preparation in accordance with accounting standards and legal requirements.

I will also report by exception on a number of matters which are set out in more detail in our Statement of Responsibilities.

There have been no limitations imposed on me in planning the scope of this audit.

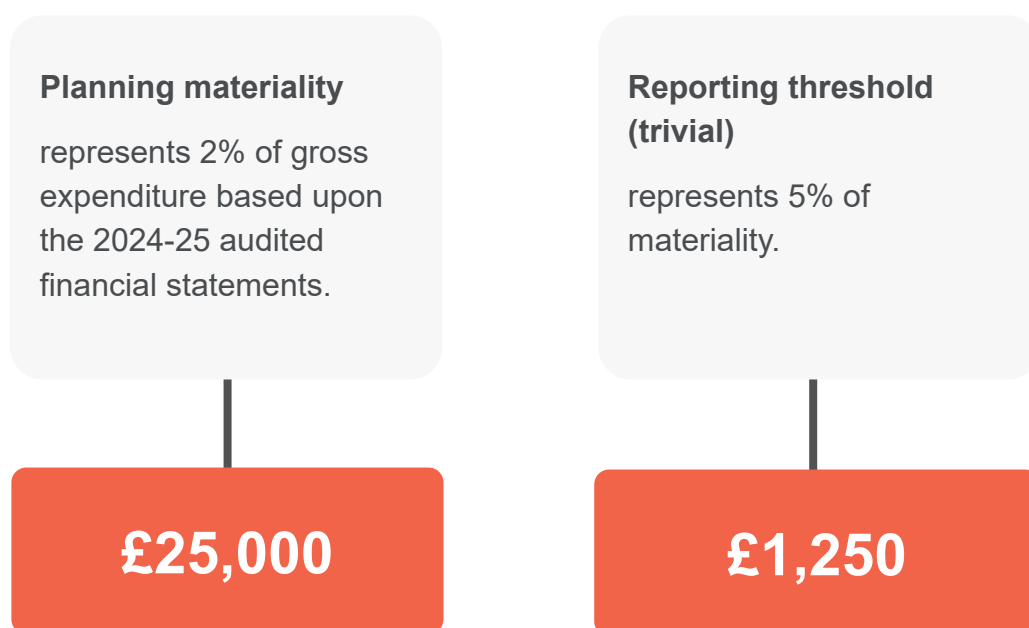
Financial statements materiality

I do not seek to obtain absolute assurance on the truth and fairness of the financial statements and related notes but adopt a concept of materiality. My aim is to identify material and correct misstatements, that is, those that might result in a reader of the accounts being misled. Materiality applies not only to financial misstatements, but also to disclosure requirements and adherence to the applicable accounting framework and law.

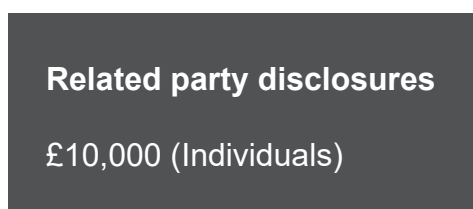
I set planning materiality to:

- determine the level of misstatement that could cause the user of the accounts to be misled;
- assist in the scoping of our audit approach and resultant audit tests;
- determine sample sizes;
- assess the effect of known and likely misstatements in the financial statements; and
- report to those charged with governance any unadjusted misstatements above a trivial level, our reporting threshold.

The levels at which I judge such misstatements to be material are set out below.



There are some areas of the accounts that may be of more importance to the user of the accounts, and we have set a lower materiality level for these:



My audit team will assess materiality levels throughout the audit.

Significant financial statements risks

Significant risks are identified risks of material misstatement for which the assessment of inherent risk is close to the upper end of the spectrum of inherent risk or those which are to be treated as a significant risk in accordance with the requirements of other International Standard on Auditing (ISAs). The ISAs require us to focus more attention on these significant risks.

Risk of management override

The risk of management override of controls is present in all entities. Due to the unpredictable way in which such override could occur, it is viewed as a significant risk [ISA 240.32-33].

Our planned response

My audit team will:

- test the appropriateness of journal entries and other adjustments made in preparing the financial statements;
- review accounting estimates for bias; and
- evaluate the rationale for any significant transactions outside the normal course of business.

Other areas of focus

I set out below other identified risks of material misstatement which, although not determined to be significant risks as above, I would like to bring to your attention.

Investment balances

The investments balance contains a mix of investments, some of which are complex to value and there is subjectivity in their valuation.

There is therefore a risk that the investments balances are materially misstated.

Our planned response

My audit team will:

- agree the valuations to appropriate supporting documentation;
- review 'control assurance' reports from the relevant fund managers; and
- evaluate the risk of residual material misstatement and the need for additional audit procedures.

Related party disclosures

The financial statements must disclose any related party relationships along with the transactions and balances between the Health Board Charitable Fund and the other body/party.

The Health Board Charitable Fund has many relationships that could be considered a related party.

Where related party relationships arise via individual officer or member relationships, there is likely to be less transparency regarding these relationships. These transactions are of high interest and are considered to be material by their nature

There is a risk of material misstatement due to incomplete or inaccurate disclosures, even where these are of relatively low value.

Our planned response

My audit team will:

- review management's process for identifying related party relationships and associated transactions and balances;
- undertake procedures to confirm the completeness of related party relationships; and
- ensure disclosures are complete, accurate, consistent with evidence and are in accordance with requirements.

Financial statements audit timetable

Below is a timetable showing the key stages of the audit and our key audit deliverables that we will provide to you.

Exhibit 1: Financial statements audit timetable

Planning February to July 2026	Planning meeting High level risk assessment procedures Fraud risk assessment Accounting estimates planning IT environment risk assessment Indicative audit fee Draft Audit Plan
Interim March to April 2026	Information flows Detailed risk assessment procedures IT controls review Develop testing strategy Early sample testing
Fieldwork October to December 2026	Update risk assessment Audit of financial statements to include narrative report and annual governance statement Complete audit testing Evaluate audit findings Audit closure meeting
Reporting December 2026	Audit of Accounts Report Recommendations for improvement Present findings to those charged with governance Auditor General certification Post project learning

Audit fee

In January 2026, we published our [2026-27 Fee Scheme](#) following approval by the Senedd Finance Committee which details the average increase to fee rates of 5.3%.

The actual fee that any individual audited body will pay depends not just on our fee rates but on the quantum of work and the skill mix required.

Based on those requirements, my estimated total audit fee for 2026 will be £27,223, an increase of 5% on my 2025 fee (£25,928).

Your estimated audit fee: £27,223 (2024-25 £25,928)

Planning will be ongoing, and changes to my programme of audit work, and therefore my fee, may be required if any key new risks emerge. I shall make no changes without my auditors first discussing them with the Director of Finance.

I base my audit fee on the following assumptions:

- The agreed audit deliverables set out the expected working paper requirements to support the financial statements and include timescales and responsibilities.
- No matters of significance, other than as summarised in this plan, are identified during the audit.

Audit team

My audit team will continue to work and engage remotely using technology,

Audited bodies have a responsibility to ensure the safety and wellbeing of Audit Wales staff when they are on your premises.

The main members of my team, together with their contact details, are summarised in **Exhibit 2**.

Exhibit 2: My local audit team

Engagement Lead	Kate Havard kate.havard@audit.wales
Audit Manager	Jason Blewitt jason.blewitt@audit.wales
Audit Lead	Andrea Thomas andrea.thomas@audit.wales

I can confirm that my team members are all independent of the Health Board and your officers.

Staff secondment

One member of staff employed by the Wales Audit Office has been seconded to the Health Board. The staff member is a trainee accountant seconded as part of an initiative funded by the Welsh Consolidated Fund, designed to allow trainee accountants to broaden their skills and to gain experience of working across different parts of the Welsh public sector. The staff member was seconded to the Health Board for the period January to June 2024.

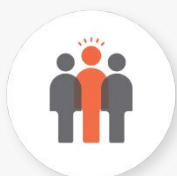
In order to safeguard against any potential threats to auditor independence and objectivity, the following restrictions apply in line with the Financial Reporting Council's Revised Ethical Standard 2024:

- the secondee will not undertake any management responsibilities;
and
- the secondment will be for a maximum of 12 months.

Audit quality

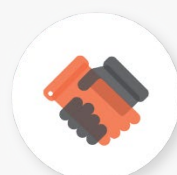
Our commitment to audit quality in Audit Wales is absolute. We believe that audit quality is about getting things right first time.

We use a three lines of assurance model to demonstrate how we achieve this. We have established an Audit Quality Committee to co-ordinate and oversee those arrangements. We subject our work to independent scrutiny by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales and our Chair of the Board, acts as a link to our Board on audit quality. For more information see our [Audit Quality Annual Report](#).



Our People

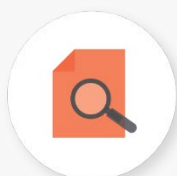
- Selection of right team
- Use of specialists
- Supervisions and review



Arrangements for achieving audit quality

Selection of right team

- Audit platform
- Ethics
- Guidance
- Culture
- Learning and development
- Leadership
- Technical support



Independent assurance

- EQRs
- Themed reviews
- Cold reviews
- Root cause analysis
- Peer review
- Audit Quality Committee
- External monitoring

Further information

Audit Wales has a range of resources to support the scrutiny of Welsh public bodies, and to support them in continuing to improve the services they provide to the people of Wales.

Visit our [website](#) to find:



Our [publications](#) which cover our audit work at public bodies.



Information on our upcoming work and forward work programme for [performance audit](#).



[Data tools](#) to help you better understand public spending trends



Details of our [Good Practice](#) work and events including the sharing of emerging practice and insights from our audit work.



Our [newsletter](#) which provides you with regular updates on our public service audit work, good practice, and events.



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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth a galwadau ffôn yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

