

Schedule 4.2

**MODEL STANDING ORDERS FOR THE EMERGENCY
AMBULANCE SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**This Schedule forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the
Local Health Board Standing Orders**

Foreword

These Model Standing Orders are issued by Welsh Ministers to Local Health Boards using powers of direction provided in section 12 (3) of the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006. When agreeing SOs Local Health Boards must ensure they are made in accordance with directions as may be issued by Welsh Ministers. Each Local Health Board (LHB) in Wales must agree Standing Orders (SOs) for the regulation of the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee's (the EASC or the Joint Committee) proceedings and business.

These EASC Standing Orders (EASC SOs) form a schedule to each LHB's own Standing Orders, and have effect as if incorporated within them. They are designed to translate the statutory requirements set out in the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (Wales) Regulations 2014 (2014 No.566 (w.67)) and LHB Standing Order 3 into day to day operating practice. Together with the adoption of a Schedule of decisions reserved to the Joint Committee; a Scheme of delegations to officers and others; and Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs), they provide the regulatory framework for the business conduct of the Joint Committee.

These documents, together with the Memorandum of Agreement made between the Joint Committee and the seven LHBs in Wales that defines the respective roles of the seven LHB Accountable Officers and a hosting agreement between the Joint Committee and Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) (the host LHB), form the basis upon which the Joint Committee governance and accountability framework is developed. Together with the adoption of a Values and Standards of Behaviour framework this is designed to ensure the achievement of the standards of good governance set for the NHS in Wales.

All LHB Board members, Joint Committee members, LHB and Emergency Ambulance Services Committee Team (EASCT) staff must be made aware of these Standing Orders and, where appropriate, should be familiar with their detailed content. The Committee Secretary of the Joint Committee will be able to provide further advice and guidance on any aspect of the Standing Orders or the wider governance arrangements for the Joint Committee.

Further information on governance in the NHS in Wales may be accessed at <https://nwssp.nhs.wales/all-wales-programmes/governance-e-manual/> .

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Section: A – Introduction

Statutory framework

- i) The Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (the Joint Committee) is a joint committee of each Local Health Board (LHB) in Wales, established under the **Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (Wales) Regulations 2014** (the EASC Regulations). The functions and services of the Joint Committee are listed in the **Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (Wales) Directions 2014**, (EASC Directions) and are subject to variations to those functions agreed from time to time by the Joint Committee. The Directions were amended by the **Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (Wales) Amendment Directions 2016**. The Joint Committee is hosted by the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) on behalf of each of the seven LHBs.
- ii) The principal place of business of the EASC is the National Collaborative Commissioning Unit, Unit 1, Charnwood Court, Heol Billingsley, Nantgarw. CF15 7QZ.
- iii) All business shall be conducted in the name of the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee on behalf of LHBs.
- iv) LHBs are corporate bodies and their functions must be carried out in accordance with their statutory powers and duties. Their statutory powers and duties are mainly contained in the **NHS (Wales) Act 2006** which is the principal legislation relating to the NHS in Wales. Whilst the **NHS Act 2006** applies equivalent legislation to the NHS in England, it also contains some legislation that applies to both England and Wales. Section 72 of the NHS Act 2006 places a duty on NHS bodies to co-operate with each other in exercising their functions.
- v) Sections 12 and 13 of the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 provide for Welsh Ministers to confer functions on LHBs and to give directions about how they exercise those functions. LHBs must act in accordance with those directions. Most of the LHBs' statutory functions are set out in the Local Health Boards (Directed Functions) (Wales) Regulations 2009.
- vi) However, in some cases the relevant function may be contained in other legislation.
- vii) Each LHB's functions include planning, funding, designing, developing and securing the delivery of primary, community, in-hospital care services, and specialised services for the citizens in their respective areas. The EASC Directions provide that the seven LHBs in Wales will work jointly to exercise functions relating to the planning and securing of emergency ambulance and non-emergency patient transport services and for the purpose of jointly exercising those functions will establish the joint committee.

- viii) Under powers in paragraph 4 of Schedule 2 to the NHS (Wales) Act 2006 the Minister has made the EASC Regulations, which set out the constitution and membership arrangements of the Joint Committee. Certain provisions of the **Local Health Boards (Constitution, Membership and Procedures) (Wales) Regulations 2009** (the Constitution Regulations) will also apply to the operations of the Joint Committee, as appropriate.
- ix) In addition to directions the Welsh Ministers may from time to time issue guidance relating to the activities of the Joint Committee which LHBs must take into account when exercising any function.
- x) **The Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 (2020 asc 1)** (the 2020 Act) makes provision for:
- Ensuring NHS bodies and ministers consider how their decisions will secure an improvement in the quality of health services (the Duty of Quality);
 - Ensuring NHS bodies and primary care services are open and honest with patients, when something may have gone wrong in their care (the Duty of Candour); and,
 - The creations of a new Citizens Voice Body for Health and Social Care, Wales (to be known as Llais) to represent the views of and advocate for people across health and social care in respect of complaints about services.

The act has been commenced at various stages with the final provision, relating to the preparation and publication of a code of practice regarding access to premises coming into effect in June 2023.

Local Health Boards will need ensure they comply with the provisions of the 2020 Act and the requirements of the statutory guidance.

The guidance outlines the responsibilities of Local Health Board when commissioning services for their population. EASC shall ensure they consider these responsibilities in the discharge of their duties.

The Duty of Quality statutory guidance 2023 can be found at <https://www.gov.wales/duty-quality-healthcare>

The NHS Duty of Candour statutory guidance 2023 can be found at <https://www.gov.wales/duty-candour-statutory-guidance-2023>

- xi) The Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB), as the host LHB shall issue an indemnity to the Chair, on behalf of the LHBs.

NHS framework

- xii) In addition to the statutory requirements set out above, the Joint Committee, on behalf of each of the LHBs, must carry out all its business in a manner that enables it to contribute fully to the achievement of the Welsh Government's vision for the NHS in Wales and its standards for public service delivery. The governance standards set for the NHS in Wales are based upon the Welsh Government's Citizen Centred Governance principles. These principles provide the framework for good governance and embody the values and standards of behaviour that is expected at all levels of the service, locally and nationally.
- xiii) Adoption of the principles will better equip the Joint Committee to take a balanced, holistic view of its work and its capacity to deliver high quality, safe healthcare services on behalf of all citizens in Wales within the NHS framework set nationally.
- xiv) The overarching NHS governance and accountability framework within which the Joint Committee must work incorporates the LHBs SOs; Schedule of Powers reserved for the Board; and Scheme of Delegation to others and SFIs, together with a range of other frameworks designed to cover specific aspects. These include the NHS Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework; the Health and Care Quality Standards 2023, the NHS Risk and Assurance Framework, and the NHS planning and performance management systems.
- xv) The Welsh Ministers, reflecting their constitutional and legal obligations under the **Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (2015 No.02)**, has stated that sustainable development should be the central organising principle for the public sector and a core objective for the NHS in all it does.
- xvi) The **Well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act** also places duties on LHBs and some NHS Trusts in Wales. Sustainable development in the context of the act means the process of improving the economic, social, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales by taking action, in accordance with the sustainable development principle, aimed at achieving the well-being goals.
- xvii) Full, up to date details of the other requirements that fall within the NHS framework – as well as further information on the Welsh Minister's Citizen Centred Governance principles - are provided on the NHS Wales Governance e-manual which can be accessed at <https://nwssp.nhs.wales/all-wales-programmes/governance-e-manual/>.
- xviii) Directions or guidance on specific aspects of LHB business are also issued electronically, usually under cover of a Welsh Health Circular.

Joint Committee Framework

- xix) The specific governance and accountability arrangements established for the Joint Committee are set out within:
- These EASC Standing Orders (SOs) and the Schedule of Powers reserved for the Joint Committee and the Scheme of Delegation.
 - The EASC SFIs - these are based on the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee SFIs and were presented to the Joint Committee in March 2023.
 - A Memorandum of Agreement defining the respective roles of the seven LHB Accountable Officers; and
 - A hosting agreement between the Joint Committee and the host LHB in relation to the provision of administrative and any other services to be provided to the Joint Committee.
- xx) **Annex 2** to these SOs provides details of the key documents that, together with these SOs, make up the Joint Committee's governance and accountability framework. These documents must be read in conjunction with these EASC SOs.
- xxi) The Joint Committee may from time to time, subject to the prior approval of each LHB's Board, agree operating procedures which apply to Joint Committee members and/or members of the EASC Team and others. The decisions to approve these operating procedures will be recorded in an appropriate Joint Committee minute and, where appropriate, will also be considered to be an integral part of these EASC SOs and SFIs. Details of the Joint Committee's key operating procedures are also included in **Annex 2** of these SOs.

Applying EASC Standing Orders

- xxii) The EASC SOs (together with the EASC SFIs and other documents making up the governance and accountability framework) will, as far as they are applicable, also apply to meetings of any Joint Committee Sub Groups established by the Joint Committee, including any Advisory Groups. The EASC SOs may be amended or adapted for the Joint Committee Sub Groups or Advisory Groups as appropriate, with the approval of the Joint Committee. Further details on Joint Committee Sub Groups and Advisory Groups may be found in Annexes 3 and 4 of these EASC SOs, respectively.
- xxiii) Full details of any non-compliance with these EASC SOs, including an explanation of the reasons and circumstances must be reported in the first instance to the Committee Secretary, who will ask the nominated Audit and Risk Committee at Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board CTMUHB to formally consider the matter and make proposals to the Joint Committee on any action to be taken.

All Joint Committee members and Joint Committee officers have a duty to report any non-compliance to the Committee Secretary as soon as they are

aware of any circumstance that has not previously been reported.
Ultimately, failure to comply with EASC SOs is a disciplinary matter.

Variation and amendment of EASC Standing Orders

- xxiv) Although SOs are subject to regular, annual review there may, exceptionally, be an occasion where the Joint Committee determines that it is necessary to vary or amend the SOs during the year. In these circumstances, the Chair of the Joint Committee, advised by the Committee Secretary, shall submit a formal report to each LHB Board setting out the nature and rationale for the proposed variation or amendment. Such a decision may only be made if:
- Each of the seven LHBs are in favour of the amendment; or
 - In the event that agreement cannot be reached, Welsh Ministers determine that the amendment should be approved.

Interpretation

- xxv) During any Joint Committee meeting where there is doubt as to the applicability or interpretation of the EASC SOs, the Chair of the Joint Committee shall have the final say, provided that his or her decision does not conflict with rights, liabilities or duties as prescribed by law. In doing so, the Chair should take appropriate advice from the Committee Secretary.
- xxvi) The terms and provisions contained within these SOs aim to reflect those covered within all applicable health legislation. The legislation takes precedence over these EASC SOs when interpreting any term or provision covered by legislation.

Relationship with LHB Standing Orders

- xxvii) The EASC SOs form a schedule to each LHB's own SOs and shall have effect as if incorporated within them.

The role of the Committee Secretary

- xxviii) The role of the Committee Secretary is crucial to the ongoing development and maintenance of a strong governance framework within the Joint Committee and is a key source of advice and support to the Chair and Joint Committee members. Independent of the Joint Committee, the Committee Secretary acts as the guardian of good governance within the Joint Committee:
- Providing advice to the Joint Committee as a whole and to individual Committee members on all aspects of governance;
 - Facilitating the effective conduct of Joint Committee business through meetings of the Joint Committee, Joint Committee Sub Groups and Advisory Groups;
 - Ensuring that Joint Committee members have the right information to enable them to make informed decisions and fulfil their responsibilities

- in accordance with the provisions of these SOs;
 - Ensuring that in all its dealings, the Joint Committee acts fairly, with integrity, and without prejudice or discrimination;
 - Contributing to the development of an organisational culture that embodies NHS values and standards of behaviour; and
 - Monitoring the Joint Committee's compliance with the law, EASC SOs and the framework set by the LHBs and Welsh Ministers.
- xxix) As advisor to the Joint Committee, the Committee Secretary's role does not affect the specific responsibilities of Joint Committee members for governing the Committee's operations. The Committee Secretary is directly accountable for the conduct of their role to the Chair of the Joint Committee.

Section: B – EASC Standing Orders

1. THE JOINT COMMITTEE

1.1 Purpose and Delegated functions

1.1.1 The Joint Committee has been established for the purpose of jointly exercising those functions relating to the commissioning of emergency ambulance and non-emergency patient transport services on a national all-Wales basis, on behalf of each of the seven LHBs in Wales.

1.1.2 LHBs are responsible for those people who are resident in their areas. Whilst the Joint Committee acts on behalf of the seven LHBs in undertaking its functions, the duty on individual LHBs remains, and they are ultimately accountable to citizens and other stakeholders for the provision of emergency ambulance and non-emergency patient transport services for residents within their area.

1.1.3 Each LHB will have appropriate arrangements to equip the Chief Executive to represent the views of the individual Board and discharge their delegated authority appropriately.

1.1.4 The Joint Committee's role is to:

- Determine a long-term strategic plan for the development of emergency ambulance services and non-emergency patient transport services in Wales, in conjunction with the Welsh Ministers;
- Identify and evaluate existing, new and emerging ways of working and commission the best quality emergency ambulance and non-emergency patient transport services;
- Produce an Integrated Medium Term Plan, including the balanced Medium Term Financial Plan for agreement by the Committee following the publication of the individual LHB's Integrated Medium Term Plans;
- Agree the appropriate level of funding for the provision of emergency ambulance and non-emergency patient transport services at a national level, and determining the contribution from each LHB for those services (which will include the running costs of the Joint Committee and the EASC Team) in accordance with any specific directions set by the Welsh Ministers;
- Establish mechanisms for managing the commissioning risks;
- Establish mechanisms to monitor, evaluate and publish the outcomes of emergency ambulance and non-emergency patient transport services and take appropriate action.

1.1.5 The Joint Committee must ensure that all its activities are in exercise of these functions or any other functions that may be conferred on it. Each LHB shall be bound by the decisions of the Joint Committee in the exercise of its roles. In the event that the Joint Committee is unable to reach agreement, then the matter shall be escalated to the Welsh Government for resolution ultimately by Welsh Ministers.

1.1.6 To fulfil its functions, the Joint Committee shall lead and scrutinise the operations, functions and decision making of the EASC Team undertaken at the direction of the Joint Committee.

1.1.7 The Joint Committee shall work with all its partners and stakeholders in the best interests of its population across Wales.

1.2 Membership of the Joint Committee

1.2.1 The membership of the Joint Committee shall be 9 voting members and three associate members, comprising the *Chair* (appointed by the Welsh Ministers) and the *Vice-Chair* (appointed by the Joint Committee from existing chief officer (executive) or nominated representatives of the seven LHBs), together with the following:

Chief Officers or nominated representative

1.2.2 A total of 7, drawn from each Local Health Board in Wales. (Where a Chief Officer intends to nominate a representative the nomination must be an Officer Member (Executive Director) of the LHB, must be in writing addressed to the Chair of the Joint Committee and must specify if the nomination is for a specific length of time.

Officer Member

1.2.3 An officer member employed by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) (the host LHB) to undertake the functions of the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner. In addition,

1.2.4 Where a post of Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner is shared between more than one person because of their being appointed jointly to a post:

- i. Either or both persons may attend and take part in Joint Committee meetings;
- ii. If both are present at a meeting they shall cast one vote if they agree;
- iii. In the case of disagreement no vote shall be cast; and
- iv. The presence of both or one person will count as one person in relation to the quorum.

Associate Members

- 1.2.5 The following three Associate Members who will attend Joint Committee meetings on an ex-officio basis, but will not have any voting rights:
- Chief Executive of Velindre NHS Trust;
 - Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust;
 - Chief Executive of Public Health Wales NHS Trust.

In attendance

- 1.2.6 The Joint Committee Chair may invite other members of the EASC Team or others to attend all or part of a meeting on an ex-officio basis to assist the Joint Committee in its work.

1.3 Member Responsibilities and Accountability

- 1.3.1 The Joint Committee will function as a decision-making body, all voting members being full and equal members and sharing corporate responsibility for all the decisions of the Joint Committee.
- 1.3.2 All members must comply with the terms of their appointment to the Committee. They must equip themselves to fulfil the breadth of their responsibilities on the Joint Committee by participating in relevant personal and organisational development programmes, engaging fully in the activities of the Joint Committee and promoting understanding of its work.

The Chair

- 1.3.3 The Chair is responsible for the effective operation of the Joint Committee:
- Chairing Joint Committee meetings;
 - Establishing and ensuring adherence to the standards of good governance set for the NHS in Wales, ensuring that all Joint Committee business is conducted in accordance with EASC SOs; and
 - Developing positive and professional relationships amongst the Joint Committee's membership and between the Joint Committee and each LHB's Board.
- 1.3.4 The Chair shall work in close harmony with the Chair of each LHB and, supported by the Committee Secretary, shall ensure that key and appropriate issues are discussed by the Joint Committee in a timely manner with all the necessary information and advice being made available to members to inform the debate and ultimate resolutions.
- 1.3.5 The Chair is directly accountable to the Minister for Health and Social Services in respect of their performance as Chair, to each LHB Board in relation to the delivery of the functions exercised by the Joint Committee on its behalf and, through the host LHB's Board, for the conduct of business in accordance with the defined governance and operating framework.

The Vice-Chair

- 1.3.6 The Vice-Chair shall deputise for the Chair in their absence for any reason, and will do so until either the existing Chair resumes their duties or a new Chair is appointed.
- 1.3.7 The Vice-Chair is accountable to the Chair for their performance as Vice-Chair.

Officer Members

- 1.3.8 Officer members are accountable to the Chair for their performance.

1.4 Appointment and tenure of Joint Committee members

- 1.4.1 The **Chair**, appointed by the Minister for Health and Social Services shall be appointed for a period specified by the Welsh Ministers, but for no longer than 4 years in any one term. The Chair may be reappointed but may not serve a total period of more than 8 years. Time served need not be consecutive and will still be counted towards the total period even where there is a break in the term.
- 1.4.2 The **Vice-Chair** shall be appointed by the Joint Committee from amongst the Chief Executives or their nominated representatives of the seven Local Health Boards for a period of no longer than two years in any one term. These members may be reappointed but may not serve a total period of more than four years. Time served need not be consecutive and will still be counted towards the total period even where there is a break in the term.
- 1.4.3 Reference to the tenure of office of the Vice-Chair are to this appointment and not to their tenure of office as a member of the Joint Committee.
- 1.4.4 The appointment process for the Vice-Chair shall be determined by the Joint Committee, subject to the approval of each LHB Board and any directions made by the Welsh Ministers. In making these appointments, the Joint Committee must ensure:
- A balanced knowledge and understanding amongst the membership of the needs of all geographical areas served by the Joint Committee;
 - That wherever possible, the overall membership of the Joint Committee reflects the diversity of the population; and
 - Potential conflicts of interest are kept to a minimum.
- 1.4.5 All Joint Committee members' tenure of appointment will cease in the event that they no longer meet any of the eligibility requirements set for their role, so far as they applicable, and as specified in the relevant regulations. Any member must inform the Joint Committee Chair as soon as is reasonably practicable to do so in respect of any issue which may impact on their eligibility to hold office.

2. RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH EACH LHB BOARD, THE HOST LHB AND OTHERS

- 2.0.1 The Joint Committee is not a separate legal entity from each of the LHBs. It shall report to each LHB Board on its activities, to which it is formally accountable in respect of the exercise of the functions carried out on their behalf. The Joint Committee shall also be held to account by the Welsh Government through the NHS performance management system.
- 2.0.2 The Board of the host LHB will not be responsible or accountable for the planning, funding and securing of emergency ambulance or non-emergency patient transport services, save in respect of residents within the areas served. The Board of the host LHB shall be responsible for ensuring that the EASC Team acts in accordance with its administrative policies and procedures.
- 2.0.3 Each LHB Board may agree that designated board members or LHB officers shall be in attendance at Joint Committee meetings. The Joint Committee Chair may also request the attendance of Board members or LHB officers, subject to the agreement of the relevant LHB Chief Officer.
- 2.0.4 The LHBs jointly shall determine the arrangements for any meetings between the Joint Committee and LHB Boards.

3. RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF JOINT COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS

- 3.0.1 Within the framework approved by each LHB Board and set out within these EASC SOs - and subject to any directions that may be given by the Welsh Ministers - the Joint Committee may make arrangements for certain functions to be carried out on its behalf so that the day to day business of the Joint Committee may be carried out effectively and in a manner that secures the achievement of its aims and objectives. In doing so, the Joint Committee must set out clearly the terms and conditions upon which any delegation is being made.
- 3.0.2 The Joint Committee's determination of those matters that it will retain, and those that will be delegated to others shall be set out in a:
- i. Schedule of matters reserved to the Joint Committee;
 - ii. Scheme of delegation to Joint Committee Sub Groups and others;
- and

Scheme of delegation to Officers all of which must be formally adopted by the Joint Committee.

3.0.3 The Joint Committee retains full responsibility for any functions delegated to others to carry out on its behalf.

3.1 Chair's action on urgent matters

3.1.1 There may, occasionally, be circumstances where decisions which would normally be made by the Joint Committee need to be taken between scheduled meetings, and it is not practicable to call a meeting of the Joint Committee. In these circumstances, the Joint Committee Chair and the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, supported by the Committee Secretary, may deal with the matter on behalf of the Joint Committee - after first consulting with at least one other Joint Committee Member. The Committee Secretary must ensure that any such action is formally recorded and reported to the next meeting of the Joint Committee for consideration and ratification.

3.1.2 Chair's action may not be taken where either the Joint Committee Chair or the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner has a personal or business interest in an urgent matter requiring decision. In this circumstance, the Vice-Chair and/or Assistant Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner will take a decision on the urgent matter, as appropriate.

3.2 Delegation to Joint Committee Sub-Committees and Others

3.2.1 The Joint Committee shall agree the delegation of any of their functions to Joint Committee sub-Committees or sub-Groups or others, setting any conditions and restrictions it considers necessary and following any directions agreed by the LHBs or the Welsh Ministers.

3.2.2 The Joint Committee shall agree and formally approve the delegation of specific powers to be exercised by Joint Committee sub-Committees or sub-Groups which it has formally constituted or to others.

3.3 Delegation to Officers

3.3.1 The Joint Committee will delegate certain functions to the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner (CASC). For these aspects, the CASC, when compiling the Scheme of Delegation, shall set out proposals for those functions they will perform personally and shall nominate other officers to undertake the remaining functions. The CASC will still be accountable to the Joint Committee for all functions delegated to them irrespective of any further delegation to other officers.

3.3.2 This must be considered and approved by the Joint Committee (subject to any amendment agreed during the discussion). The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner may periodically propose amendments to the Scheme of Delegation and any such amendments must also be considered and approved by the Joint Committee.

3.3.3 Individual Chief Officers are in turn responsible for delegation within their own teams in accordance with the framework established by the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner and agreed by the Joint Committee.

4. JOINT COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEES AND SUB-GROUPS

4.0.1 In accordance with EASC Standing Order 4.0.3, the Joint Committee may and, where directed by the LHBs jointly or the Welsh Ministers must, appoint sub-Committees and sub-Groups of the Joint Committee either to undertake specific functions on the Joint Committee's behalf or to provide advice and assurance to others (whether directly to the Joint Committee, or on behalf of the Joint Committee to each LHB Board and/or its other committees).

4.0.2 These may consist wholly or partly of Joint Committee members or LHB Board members or of persons who are not LHB Board members or Board members of other health service bodies.

4.0.3 The Joint Committee shall establish a Joint Committee sub-Committee and sub-Groups structure that meets its own advisory and assurance needs and in doing so the needs of the constituent LHBs. As a minimum it shall establish joint –sub-Committee which cover the following aspects of Joint Committee business:

- Quality and Safety
- Audit

4.0.4 The Joint Committee may make arrangements to receive and provide assurance to others through the establishment and operation of its own Joint Committee sub-Committee or sub-Groups or by placing responsibility with the host LHB or other designated LHB. Where responsibility is placed with the host LHB or other designated LHB, the arrangement shall be detailed within the hosting agreement between the Joint Committee and the host LHB or the agreement between the seven LHB Accountable Officers (as appropriate).

4.0.5 Full details of the Joint Committee sub-Committee or sub-Groups structure established by the Joint Committee, including detailed terms of reference for each of these Joint Committee sub-Committees or sub-Groups are set out in **Annex 3** of these EASC SOs.

4.0.6 Each Joint Committee sub-Committee or sub-Group established by or on behalf of the Joint Committee must have its own terms of reference and operating arrangements, which must be formally approved by the Joint Committee. These must establish its governance and ways of working, setting out, as a minimum:

- The scope of its work (including its purpose and any delegated powers and authority);
- Membership and quorum;
- Meeting arrangements;

- Relationships and accountabilities with others;
- Any budget and financial responsibility, where appropriate;
- Secretariat and other support;
- Training, development and performance; and
- Reporting and assurance arrangements.

4.0.7 In doing so, the Joint Committee shall specify which aspects of the EASC SOs are not applicable to the operation of the Joint Committee Sub-Groups, keeping any such aspects to the minimum necessary.

4.0.8 The membership of any such Joint Committee sub-Committee or sub-Group - including the designation of Chair; definition of member roles and powers and terms and conditions of appointment (including remuneration and reimbursement) - will usually be determined by the Joint Committee, subject to any specific requirements, regulations or directions agreed by the LHBs or the Welsh Ministers. Depending on the Joint Committee sub-Committees' or sub-Groups' defined role and remit; membership may be drawn from the Joint Committee, LHB Board or committee members, staff (subject to the conditions set out in EASC SOs 4.0.9) or others.

4.0.9 Members of the EASC Team should not normally be appointed as Joint sub-Committee Chair, nor should they be appointed to serve as members of any sub-Committee set up to review the exercise of functions delegated to officers. Designated EASC Team officers shall, however, be in attendance at Joint sub-Committees/groups as appropriate.

4.1 Other Groups

4.1.1 The Joint Committee may also establish other groups to help it in the conduct of its business.

4.2 Reporting activity to the Joint Committee

4.2.1 The Joint Committee must ensure that the Chairs of all Joint Committee sub-Committees and sub-Groups and other bodies or groups operating on its behalf report formally, regularly and on a timely basis to the Joint Committee on their activities. Joint Committee sub-Committee and sub-Group Chairs' shall bring to the Joint Committees specific attention any significant matters under consideration and report on the totality of its activities through the production of minutes or other written reports.

4.2.2 Each Joint Committee sub-Committee and sub-Group shall also submit an annual report to the Joint Committee through the Chair within - six weeks of the end of the reporting year setting out its activities during the year and detailing the results of a review of its performance and that of any sub groups it has established.

5. EXPERT PANEL AND OTHER ADVISORY GROUPS

5.0.1 The Joint Committee may, and where directed by the LHBs jointly or the Welsh Ministers must appoint an Expert Panel and other Advisory Groups to provide it with advice in the exercise of its functions. Full details of the Expert Panel and other Advisory Groups established by the Joint Committee, including detailed terms of reference are set out in **Annex 4** of the EASC SOs.

5.0.2 Any Expert Panel or Advisory Group established by the Joint Committee must have its own terms of reference and operating arrangements, which must be formally approved by the Joint Committee. These must establish its governance and ways of working, setting out, as a minimum:

- The scope of its work (including its purpose and any delegated powers and authority);
- Membership and quorum;
- Meeting arrangements;
- Relationships and accountabilities with others;
- Any budget and financial responsibility, where appropriate;
- Secretariat and other support;
- Training, development and performance; and
- Reporting and assurance arrangements.

5.0.3 In doing so, the Joint Committee shall specify which aspects of the EASC SOs are not applicable to the operation of the Expert Panel or Advisory Group, keeping any such aspects to the minimum necessary.

5.0.4 The membership of any Expert Panel or Advisory Group - including the designation of Chair; definition of member roles and powers and terms and conditions of appointment (including remuneration and reimbursement) - will usually be determined by the Joint Committee, subject to any specific requirements or directions agreed by the LHBs or the Welsh Ministers.

5.1 Reporting activity

5.1.1 The Joint Committee shall ensure that the Chairs of any Sub Group reports formally, regularly and on a timely basis to the Joint Committee on their activities. Sub Group Chairs shall bring to the Joint Committees specific attention any significant matters under consideration and report on the totality of its activities through the production of minutes or other written reports.

5.1.2 Any Sub Group shall also submit an annual report to the Joint Committee through the Chair within six weeks of the end of the reporting year setting out its activities during the year and detailing the results of a review of its performance and that of any sub groups it has established.

6. MEETINGS

6.1 Putting Citizens first

6.1.1 The Joint Committee's business will be carried out openly and transparently in a manner that encourages the active engagement of its citizens and other stakeholders. The Joint Committee, through the planning and conduct of meetings held in public, shall facilitate this in a number of ways, including:

- Active communication of forthcoming business and activities;
- The selection of accessible, suitable venues for meetings when these are not held via electronic means;
- The availability of papers in English and Welsh languages and in accessible formats, such as Braille, large print, easy read, where requested or required, and in electronic formats;
- Requesting that attendees notify the Committee Secretary of any access needs sufficiently in advance of a proposed meeting, and responding appropriately, e.g., arranging British Sign Language (BSL) interpretation at meetings; and
- Where appropriate, ensuring suitable translation arrangements are in place to enable the conduct of meetings in either English or Welsh,

in accordance with legislative requirements, e.g. Disability Discrimination Act, as well as its Communication Strategy and the provisions made by the host body in response to the compliance notice issued by the Welsh Language Commissioner under section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

6.1.2 The Joint Committee Chair will ensure that, in determining the matters to be considered by the Joint Committee, full account is taken of the views and interests of all citizens served by the Joint Committee on behalf of each LHB, including any views expressed formally.

6.2 Working with Llais

6.2.1 Part 4 of the **Health and Social Care (Quality and Engagement) (Wales) Act 2020 (2020 asc 1)** (the 2020 Act) places a range of duties on LHBs and Trusts in relation to the engagement and involvement of Llais in their operations.

6.2.2 The 2020 Act places a statutory duty on LHBs and Trusts to have regard to any representations made to them by Llais. Statutory Guidance on Representations has been published to guide NHS bodies, local authorities and Llais in how these representations should be made and considered.

6.2.3 The Statutory Guidance on Representations made by the Citizen Voice Body can be found at <https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/publications/2023-04/statutory-guidance-on-representations-made-by-the-citizen-voice-body.pdf>

6.2.4 The 2020 Act also places a statutory duty on LHBs and NHS Trusts to promote awareness of Llais and make arrangements to engage and co-operate with Llais with the view to supporting each other in the exercise of their relevant functions. Promoting and facilitating engagement between individuals and Llais through access to relevant premises can help strengthen the public's voice and participation in shaping the design and delivery of services. LHBs and Trusts must have regard to the Code of Practice on Access to Premises and Engagement with Individuals (so far as the code is relevant).

6.2.5 The Code of Practice on Access to Premises and Engagement with Individuals can be found at

<https://www.gov.wales/code-practice-llais-accessing-premises-and-engaging-people>

6.2.6 The LHBs, Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust and Joint Committee will ensure it is clear who will assume responsibility for engaging and co-operating with Llais when planning, developing, considering proposals for service change and commissioning services.

6.2.7 The Joint Committee shall ensure arrangements are in place to engage and co-operate with representatives of Llais as appropriate.

6.3 Annual Plan of Committee Business

6.3.1 The Committee Secretary, on behalf of the Joint Committee Chair, shall produce an Annual Plan of Committee business. This plan will include proposals on meeting dates, venues and coverage of business activity during the year. The Plan shall also set out any standing items that shall appear on every Joint Committee agenda.

6.3.2 The plan shall set out the arrangements in place to enable the Joint Committee to meet its obligations to its citizens as outlined in paragraph 6.1.1 whilst also allowing Joint Committee members to contribute in either English or Welsh languages, where appropriate.

6.3.3 The plan shall also incorporate formal Joint Committee meetings, regular Committee Development sessions and, where appropriate, the planned activities of Joint Committee sub-Committees or sub-Groups, Expert Panel and Advisory Groups.

6.3.4 The Joint Committee shall agree the plan for the forthcoming year by the end of March, and this plan shall be published on the organisations website.

6.4 Calling Meetings

- 6.4.1 In addition to the planned meetings agreed by the Joint Committee, the Joint Committee Chair may call a meeting of the Joint Committee at any time. Any LHB may request that the Chair call a meeting, or an individual committee member may also request that the Joint Committee Chair call a meeting provided that in either case at least one third of the whole number of Committee members supports such a request.
- 6.4.2 If the Chair does not call a meeting within seven days after receiving such a request from Joint Committee members, then those Joint Committee members may themselves call a meeting.

6.5 Preparing for Meetings

Setting the agenda

- 6.5.1 The Joint Committee Chair, in consultation with the Committee Secretary and the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, will set the Agenda. In doing so, they will take account of the planned activity set in the annual cycle of Joint Committee business; any standing items agreed by the Joint Committee; any applicable items received from Joint Committee Sub Group and other groups as well as the priorities facing the Joint Committee. The Joint Committee Chair must ensure that all relevant matters are brought before the Joint Committee on a timely basis.
- 6.5.2 Any Joint Committee member may request that a matter is placed on the Agenda by writing to the Joint Committee Chair, copied to the Committee Secretary, at least 12 calendar days before the meeting. The request shall set out whether the item of business is proposed to be transacted in public and shall include appropriate supporting information. The Chair may, at their discretion, include items on the agenda that have been requested after the 12-day notice period if this would be beneficial to the conduct of Joint Committee business.

Notifying and equipping Joint Committee members

- 6.5.3 Joint Committee members should be sent an Agenda and a complete set of supporting papers at least 10 calendar days before a formal Joint Committee meeting. This information may be provided to Joint Committee members electronically or in paper form, in an accessible format, to the address provided, and in accordance with their stated preference. Supporting papers may, exceptionally, be provided, after this time provided that the Joint Committee Chair is satisfied that the Joint Committee's ability to consider the issues contained within the paper would not be impaired.

- 6.5.4 No papers should be included for decision by the Joint Committee unless the Joint Committee Chair is satisfied (subject to advice from the Committee Secretary, as appropriate) that the information contained within it is sufficient to enable the Joint Committee to take a reasonable decision. This will include evidence that appropriate impact assessments have been undertaken and taken into consideration. Impact assessments shall be undertaken on all new or revised policies, strategies, guidance and or practice to be considered by the Joint Committee, and the outcome of that assessment shall accompany the report to the Joint Committee to enable the Joint Committee to make an informed decision.
- 6.5.5 In the event that at least half of the Joint Committee members do not receive the Agenda and papers for the meeting as set out above, the Joint Committee Chair must consider whether or not the Joint Committee would still be capable of fulfilling its role and meeting its responsibilities through the conduct of the meeting. Where the Joint Committee Chair determines that the meeting should go ahead, their decision, and the reason for it, shall be recorded in the minutes.
- 6.5.6 In the case of a meeting called by Joint Committee members, notice of that meeting must be signed by those members and the business conducted will be limited to that set out in the notice.

Notifying the public and others

- 6.5.7 Except for meetings called in accordance with EASC Standing Order 6.4, at least 10 calendar days before each meeting of the Joint Committee a public notice of the time and place of the meeting, and the public part of the agenda, shall be displayed bilingually (in English and Welsh):
- On each LHB's website, together with the papers supporting the public part of the Agenda; as well as
 - Through other methods of communication as set out in the Joint Committee's communication strategy.
- 6.5.8 When providing notification of the forthcoming meeting, each LHB shall set out when and how the Agenda and the papers supporting the public part of the Agenda may be accessed, in what language and in what format, e.g., as Braille, large print, easy read, etc.

6.6 Conducting Joint Committee Meetings

Admission of the public, the press and other observers

- 6.6.1 The Joint Committee shall encourage attendance at its formal Joint Committee meetings by the public and members of the press as well as officers or representatives from organisations who have an interest in the business of the Joint Committee. The venue for such meetings must be appropriate to facilitate easy access for attendees and translation services; and should have appropriate facilities to maximise accessibility.

6.6.2 The Joint Committee shall conduct as much of its formal business in public as possible. There may be circumstances where it would not be in the public interest to discuss a matter in public, e.g., business that relates to a confidential matter affecting an EASC Team member or a patient. In such cases the Chair (advised by the Committee Secretary where appropriate) shall schedule these issues accordingly and require that any observers withdraw from the meeting. In doing so, the Joint Committee shall resolve:

‘That representatives of the press and other members of the public be excluded from the remainder of this meeting having regard to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, publicity on which would be prejudicial to the public interest [Section 1(2) Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960].’

6.6.3 In these circumstances, when the Joint Committee is not meeting in public session it shall operate in private session, formally reporting any decisions taken to the next meeting of the Joint Committee in public session. Wherever possible, that reporting shall take place at the end of a private session, by reconvening a Joint Committee meeting held in public session.

6.6.4 The Committee Secretary, on behalf of the Joint Committee Chair, shall keep under review the nature and volume of business conducted in private session to ensure such arrangements are adopted only when absolutely necessary.

6.6.5 In encouraging entry to formal Joint Committee Meetings from members of the public and others, the Joint Committee shall make clear that attendees are welcomed as observers. The Joint Committee Chair shall take all necessary steps to ensure that the Joint Committee’s business is conducted without interruption and disruption. In exceptional circumstances, this may include a requirement that observers leave the meeting.

6.6.6 Unless the Joint Committee has given prior and specific agreement, members of the public or other observers will not be allowed to record proceedings in any way other than in writing.

Addressing the Joint Committee, its Joint Committee Sub-Groups, Expert Panel or Advisory Groups

6.6.7 The Joint Committee shall decide what arrangements and terms and conditions are appropriate in extending an invitation to observers to attend and address any meetings of the Joint Committee, its Joint Committee sub-Committees or sub-Groups, expert panel or Advisory Groups, and may change, alter or vary these terms and conditions as it considers appropriate. In doing so, the Joint Committee will take account of its responsibility to actively encourage the engagement and, where appropriate, involvement of citizens and stakeholders in the work of the Joint Committee (whether directly or through the activities of bodies such as Llais) and to demonstrate openness and transparency in the conduct of business.

Chairing Joint Committee Meetings

- 6.6.8 The Chair of the Joint Committee will preside at any meeting of the Joint Committee unless they are absent for any reason (including any temporary absence or disqualification from participation on the grounds of a conflict of interest). In these circumstances the Vice-Chair shall preside. If both the Chair and Vice-Chair are absent or disqualified, the Chief Executives present will agree who will preside.
- 6.6.9 The Chair must ensure that the meeting is handled in a manner that enables the Joint Committee to reach effective decisions on the matters before it. This includes ensuring that Joint Committee members' contributions are timely and relevant and move business along at an appropriate pace. In doing so, the Joint Committee must have access to appropriate advice on the conduct of the meeting through the attendance of the Committee Secretary. The Chair has the final say on any matter relating to the conduct of Joint Committee business.

Quorum

- 6.6.10 At least four voting members, whom are LHB Chief Executives, must be present to allow any formal business to take place at a Joint Committee meeting.
- 6.6.11 If a LHB Chief Executive is unable to attend a Joint Committee meeting they may nominate a representative/deputy to attend on their behalf. The nominated representative/deputy should be an Officer Member (Executive Director) of the same organisation. Nominated representatives/deputies will formally contribute to the quorum and will have delegated voting rights.
- 6.6.12 If the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner or another Associate Member is unable to attend a Joint Committee meeting, then a nominated deputy may attend in their absence and may participate in the meeting, provided that the Chair has agreed the nomination before the meeting. However, their voting rights cannot be delegated so the nominated deputy may not vote or be counted towards the quorum. If a deputy is already a Joint Committee member in their own right, e.g. a person deputising for the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner will usually be the Assistant Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, they will not have any voting rights.
- 6.6.13 The quorum must be maintained during a meeting to allow formal business to be conducted, i.e., any decisions to be made. Any Joint Committee member or their nominated deputy/representative disqualified through conflict of interest from participating in the discussion on any matter and/or from voting on any resolution will no longer count towards the quorum. If this results in the quorum not being met that particular matter or resolution cannot be considered further at that meeting, and must be noted in the minutes. A member may participate in a meeting via video or teleconference where this is available.

Dealing with Motions

- 6.6.14 In the normal course of Joint Committee business items included on the agenda are subject to discussion and decisions based on consensus. Considering a motion is therefore not a routine matter and may be regarded as exceptional, e.g. where an aspect of service delivery is a cause for particular concern, a Joint Committee member may put forward a motion proposing that a formal review of that service area is undertaken. The Committee Secretary will advise the Chair on the formal process for dealing with motions. No motion or amendment to a motion will be considered by the Joint Committee unless moved by a Joint Committee member or their deputy/representative and seconded by another Joint Committee member or their deputy/representative (including the Joint Committee Chair).
- 6.6.15 **Proposing a formal notice of Motion** – Any Joint Committee member wishing to propose a motion must notify the Joint Committee Chair in writing of the proposed motion at least 12 calendar days before a planned meeting. Exceptionally, an emergency motion may be proposed up to one hour before the fixed start of the meeting, provided that the reasons for the urgency are clearly set out. Where sufficient notice has been provided, and the Joint Committee Chair has determined that the proposed motion is relevant to the Joint Committee’s business, the matter shall be included on the agenda, or, where an emergency motion has been proposed, the Joint Committee Chair shall declare the motion at the start of the meeting as an additional item to be included on the agenda.
- 6.6.16 The Joint Committee Chair also has the discretion to accept a motion proposed during a meeting provided that the matter is considered of sufficient importance and its inclusion would not adversely affect the conduct of Joint Committee business.
- 6.6.17 **Amendments** – Any Joint Committee member or their deputy/representative may propose an amendment to the motion at any time before or during a meeting and this proposal must be considered by the Joint Committee alongside the motion.
- 6.6.18 If there are a number of proposed amendments to the motion, each amendment will be considered in turn, and if passed, the amended motion becomes the basis on which the further amendments are considered, i.e., the substantive motion.
- 6.6.19 **Motions under discussion** – When a motion is under discussion, any Joint Committee member or their deputy/representative may propose that:
- The motion be amended;
 - The meeting should be adjourned;
 - The discussion should be adjourned and the meeting proceed to the next item of business;
 - A Joint Committee member may not be heard further;

- The Joint Committee decides upon the motion before them;
- An ad hoc committee should be appointed to deal with a specific item of business; or
- The public, including the press, should be excluded.

6.6.20 **Rights of reply to motions** – The mover of a motion (including an amendment) shall have a right of reply at the close of any debate on the motion or the amendment immediately prior to a vote on the proposal.

6.6.21 **Withdrawal of Motion or Amendments** – A motion or an amendment to a motion, once moved and seconded, may be withdrawn by the proposer with the agreement of the seconder and the Joint Committee Chair.

6.6.22 **Motion to rescind a resolution** – The Joint Committee may not consider a motion to amend or rescind any resolution (or the general substance of any resolution) which has been passed within the preceding six months unless the motion is supported by the (simple) majority of Joint Committee members.

6.6.23 A motion that has been decided upon by the Joint Committee cannot be proposed again within six months except by the Joint Committee Chair, unless the motion relates to the receipt of a report or the recommendations of a Joint Committee sub-Committee or sub-Group /EASC Director to which a matter has been referred.

Voting

6.6.24 The Joint Committee Chair will determine whether Joint Committee members' decisions should be expressed orally, through a show of hands, by secret ballot or by recorded vote. The Joint Committee Chair must require a secret ballot or recorded vote if the majority of voting Joint Committee members request it. Where voting on any question is conducted, a record of the vote shall be maintained. In the case of a secret ballot the decision shall record the number voting for, against or abstaining. Where a recorded vote has been used the Minutes shall record the name of the individual and the way in which they voted. Associate Members may not vote in any meetings or proceedings of the Joint Committee.

6.6.25 In determining every question at a meeting the Joint Committee members must take account, where relevant, of the views expressed and representations made by individuals or organisations who represent the interests of citizens in Wales.

6.6.26 The Joint Committee will make decisions based on a two thirds majority view held by the voting Joint Committee members present. In the event of a split decision, i.e., no majority view being expressed, the Joint Committee Chair shall have a second and casting vote.

6.6.27 A nominated deputy/representative of a LHB Chief Executive may vote. In no circumstances may a nominated deputy of the Chief Ambulance Commissioner vote. Absent Joint Committee members may not vote by proxy. Absence is defined as being absent at the time of the vote.

6.7 Record of Proceedings

6.7.1 A record of the proceedings of formal Joint Committee meetings (and any other meetings of the Joint Committee where the Joint Committee members determine) shall be drawn up as 'minutes'. These minutes shall include a record of Joint Committee member attendance (including the Joint Committee Chair) together with apologies for absence, and shall be submitted for agreement at the next meeting of the Joint Committee, where any discussion shall be limited to matters of accuracy. Any agreed amendment to the minutes must be formally recorded.

6.7.2 Agreed minutes shall be circulated in accordance with Joint Committee members' wishes, and, where providing a record of a formal Joint Committee meeting shall be made available to the public on each LHB's website and in hard copy or other accessible format on request, in accordance with any legislative requirements, e.g., Freedom of Information Act, the Joint Committee's Communication Strategy and the Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB) Welsh language requirements.

6.8 Confidentiality

6.8.1 All Joint Committee members (including Associate members), together with members of any Joint Committee sub-Committee or sub-Group, Expert Panel or Advisory Group established by or on behalf of the Joint Committee and Joint Committee and/or LHB officials must respect the confidentiality of all matters considered by the Joint Committee in private session or set out in documents which are not publicly available. Disclosure of any such matters may only be made with the express permission of the Joint Committee Chair or relevant Joint Committee sub-Committee or sub-Group or group, as appropriate, and in accordance with any other requirements set out elsewhere, e.g., in contracts of employment, within the Values and Standards of Behaviour framework or legislation such as the Freedom of Information Act 2000, etc.

7. VALUES AND STANDARDS OF BEHAVIOUR

7.0.1 The Joint Committee must operate within a set of values and standards of behaviour that meets the requirements of the NHS Wales Values and Standards of Behaviour framework. These values and standards of behaviour will apply to all those conducting business by or on behalf of the Joint Committee, including Joint Committee members, EASC Team officers and others, as appropriate. The framework adopted by the Joint Committee will form part of the EASC SOs.

The Values and Standards of Behaviour document is the same as the host body Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (CTMUHB).

7.1 Declaring and recording Joint Committee members' interests

- 7.1.1 Declaration of interests** – It is a requirement that all Joint Committee members should declare any personal or business interests they may have which may affect, or be perceived to affect the conduct of their role as a Joint Committee member. This includes any interests that may influence or be perceived to influence their judgement in the course of conducting the Joint Committee's business. Joint Committee members must be familiar with the Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework and their statutory duties under the relevant Constitution Regulations. Joint Committee members must notify the Joint Committee of any such interests at the time of their appointment, and any further interests as they arise throughout their tenure as Joint Committee members.
- 7.1.2** Joint Committee members must also declare any interests held by family members or persons or bodies with which they are connected. The Committee Secretary will provide advice to the Joint Committee Chair and the Joint Committee on what should be considered as an 'interest', taking account of the regulatory requirements and any further guidance, e.g., the Values and Standards of Behaviour framework. If individual Joint Committee members are in any doubt about what may be considered as an interest, they should seek advice from the Committee Secretary. However, the onus regarding declaration will reside with the individual Joint Committee member.
- 7.1.3 Register of interests** – The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, through the Committee Secretary will ensure that a Register of Interests is established and maintained as a formal record of interests declared by all Joint Committee members. The register will include details of all Directorships and other relevant and material interests which have been declared by Joint Committee members.
- 7.1.4** The register will be held by the Committee Secretary, and will be updated during the year, as appropriate, to record any new interests, or changes to the interests declared by Joint Committee members. The Committee Secretary will also arrange an annual review of the register, through which Joint Committee members will be required to confirm the accuracy and completeness of the register relating to their own interests.
- 7.1.5** In line with the Joint Committee's commitment to openness and transparency, the Committee Secretary must take reasonable steps to ensure that citizens served by the Joint Committee are made aware of, and have access to view the Joint Committee's Register of Interests. This will include publication on the EASC website.

7.1.6 **Publication of declared interests in Annual Report** – Joint Committee members' directorships of companies or positions in other organisations likely or possibly seeking to do business with the NHS shall be published in each LHB Board's Annual Report.

7.2 **Dealing with Members' interests during Joint Committee meetings**

7.2.1 The Joint Committee Chair, advised by the Committee Secretary, must ensure that the Joint Committee's decisions on all matters brought before it are taken in an open, balanced, objective and unbiased manner. In turn, individual Joint Committee members must demonstrate, through their actions, that their contribution to the Joint Committee's decision making is based upon the best interests of the NHS in Wales.

7.2.2 Where individual Joint Committee members identify an interest in relation to any aspect of Joint Committee business set out in the Joint Committee's meeting agenda, that member must declare an interest at the start of the Joint Committee meeting. Joint Committee members should seek advice from the Joint Committee Chair, through the Committee Secretary before the start of the Joint Committee meeting if they are in any doubt as to whether they should declare an interest at the meeting. All declarations of interest made at a meeting must be recorded in the Joint Committees minutes.

7.2.3 It is the responsibility of the Joint Committee Chair, on behalf of the Joint Committee, to determine the action to be taken in response to a declaration of interest, taking account of any regulatory requirements or directions given by the Welsh Ministers. The range of possible actions may include determination that:

- i. The declaration is formally noted and recorded, but that the Joint Committee member should participate fully in the Joint Committee's discussion and decision, including voting. This may be appropriate, for example where experience of using a digital system (not procurement);
- ii. The declaration is formally noted and recorded, and the Joint Committee member participates fully in the Joint Committee's discussion, but takes no part in the Joint Committee's decision;
- iii. The declaration is formally noted and recorded, and the Joint Committee member takes no part in the Joint Committee discussion or decision;
- iv. The declaration is formally noted and recorded, and the Joint Committee member is excluded for that part of the meeting when the matter is being discussed. A Joint Committee member must be excluded, where that member has a direct or indirect financial interest in a matter being considered by the Joint Committee.

- 7.2.4 In extreme cases, it may be necessary for the member to reflect on whether their position as a Joint Committee member is compatible with an identified conflict of interest.
- 7.2.5 Where the Joint Committee Chair is the individual declaring an interest, any decision on the action to be taken shall be made by the Vice-Chair, on behalf of the Joint Committee.
- 7.2.6 In all cases the decision of the Joint Committee Chair (or the Vice-Chair in the case of an interest declared by the Joint Committee Chair) is binding on all Joint Committee members. The Joint Committee Chair should take advice from the Committee Secretary when determining the action to take in response to declared interests; taking care to ensure their exercise of judgement is consistently applied.
- 7.2.7 **Members with pecuniary (financial) interests** – Where a Joint Committee member, or any person they are connected with¹ has any direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any matter being considered by the Joint Committee including a contract or proposed contract, that member must not take part in the consideration or discussion of that matter or vote on any question related to it. The Joint Committee may determine that the Joint Committee member concerned shall be excluded from that part of the meeting.
- 7.2.8 The **Local Health Boards (Constitution, Membership and Procedures) (Wales) Regulations 2009** define ‘direct’ and ‘indirect’ pecuniary interests and these definitions always apply when determining whether a member has an interest. The EASC SOs must be interpreted in accordance with these definitions.
- 7.2.9 **Members with Professional Interests** – During the conduct of a Joint Committee meeting, an individual Joint Committee member may establish a clear conflict of interest between their role as a Joint Committee member and that of their professional role outside of the Joint Committee. In any such circumstance, the Joint Committee shall take action that is proportionate to the nature of the conflict, taking account of the advice provided by the Committee Secretary.

7.3 Dealing with officers’ interests

- 7.3.1 The Joint Committee must ensure that the Committee Secretary, on behalf of the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, establishes and maintains a system for the declaration, recording and handling of EASC Team officers’ interests in accordance with the Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework. This will be done in conjunction with the declarations of interest recorded by the Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee which is also hosted by Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board.

¹ In the case of persons who are married to each other or in a civil partnership with each other or who are living together as if married or civil partners, the interest of one person shall, if known to the other, be deemed for the purpose of this Standing Order to be also an interest of the other.

7.4 Reviewing how Interests are handled

7.4.1 The Joint Committee's (CTMUHBs) Audit and Risk Committee will review and report to the LHBs upon the adequacy of the arrangements for declaring, registering and handling interests at least annually.

7.5 Dealing with offers of gifts², hospitality and sponsorship

7.5.1 The Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework - CTMUHB Standards of Behaviour Policy (incorporating declarations of interest, gifts, hospitality, sponsorship and honoraria) adopted by the Joint Committee prohibits Joint Committee members and EASC Team officers receiving gifts, hospitality or benefits in kind from a third party which may reasonably give rise to suspicion of conflict between their official duty and their private interest, or may reasonably be seen to compromise their personal integrity in any way.

7.5.2 Gifts, benefits or hospitality must never be solicited. Any Joint Committee member or EASC Team officer who is offered a gift, benefit or hospitality which may or may be seen to compromise their position must refuse to accept it. This may in certain circumstances also include a gift, benefit or hospitality offered to a family member of a Joint Committee member or EASC Team officer. Failure to observe this requirement may result in disciplinary and/or legal action.

7.5.3 In determining whether any offer of a gift or hospitality should be accepted, an individual must make an active assessment of the circumstances within which the offer is being made, seeking advice from the Committee Secretary as appropriate. In assessing whether an offer should be accepted, individuals must take into account:

- **Relationship:** Contacts which are made for the purpose of information gathering are generally less likely to cause problems than those which could result in a contractual relationship, in which case accepting a gift or hospitality could cause embarrassment or be seen as giving rise to an obligation;
- **Legitimate Interest:** Regard should be paid to the reason for the contact on both sides and whether it is a contact that is likely to benefit the Joint Committee;
- **Value:** Gifts and benefits of a trivial or inexpensive seasonal nature, e.g., diaries/calendars, are more likely to be acceptable and can be distinguished from more substantial offers. Similarly, hospitality in the form of a working lunch would not be treated in the same way as more expensive social functions, travel or accommodation (although in some circumstances these may also be accepted);
- **Frequency:** Acceptance of frequent or regular invitations particularly

²The term gift refers also to any reward or benefit.

from the same source would breach the required standards of conduct. Isolated acceptance of, for example, meals, tickets to public, cultural or social events would only be acceptable if attendance is justifiable in that it benefits the Joint Committee; and

- **Reputation:** If the body concerned is known to be under investigation by or has been publicly criticised by a public body, regulators or inspectors, acceptance of a gift or hospitality might be seen as supporting the body or affecting in some way the investigation or negotiations and it must always be declined.

7.5.4 A distinction shall be drawn between items offered as hospitality and items offered in substitution for fees for broadcasts, speeches, lectures or other work done. There may be circumstances where the latter may be accepted if they can be used for official purposes.

7.6 Sponsorship

7.6.1 In addition, gifts and hospitality individuals and the organisation may also receive sponsorship. Sponsorship is an offer of funding to an individual, department or the organisation as a whole from an external source whether in cash, goods, services or benefits. It could include an offer to sponsor a research or operational post, training, attendance at a conference, costs associated with meetings, conferences or a working visit. The sponsorship may cover some or all of the costs.

7.6.2 All sponsorship must be approved prior to acceptance in accordance with the CTMUHB Standards of Behaviour Policy (incorporating declarations of interest, gifts, hospitality, sponsorship and honoraria) and relevant procedures. A record of all sponsorship accepted or declined will also be maintained.

7.7 Register of Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship

7.7.1 The Committee Secretary, on behalf of the Joint Committee Chair, will maintain a Register of Gifts and Hospitality to record offers of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship made to Joint Committee members. The EASC Team officers will adopt a similar mechanism in relation to Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board staff working within their areas.

7.7.2 Every Joint Committee member and EASC Team officer has a personal responsibility to volunteer information in relation to offers of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship made in their capacity as Joint Committee members, including those offers that have been refused. The Committee Secretary, on behalf of the Joint Committee Chair and Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, will ensure the incidence and patterns of offers and receipt of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship is kept under active review, taking appropriate action where necessary.

7.7.3 When determining what should be included in the register with regards to gifts and hospitality, individuals must apply the following principles, subject to the considerations in EASC Standing Order 7.5:

- **Gifts:** Generally, only gifts of material value should be recorded. Those with a nominal value would not usually need to be recorded, e.g., seasonal items such as diaries/calendars with normally fall within this category.
- **Hospitality:** Only significant hospitality offered or received should be recorded. Occasional offers of 'modest and proportionate'³ hospitality need not be included in the Register.

7.7.4 Joint Committee members and EASC Team Officers may accept the occasional offer of modest and proportionate hospitality but in doing so must consider whether the following conditions are met:

- Acceptance would further the aims of the Joint Committee;
- The level of hospitality is reasonable in the circumstances;
- It has been openly offered; and,
- It could not be construed as any form of inducement and will not put the individual under any obligation to those offering it.

7.7.5 The Committee Secretary will arrange for a full report of all offers of Gifts, Hospitality and Sponsorship recorded by the Joint Committee to be submitted to the designated Audit and Risk Committee (or equivalent) at least annually. The Audit and Risk Committee will then review and report to the LHBs jointly upon the adequacy of the Joint Committees arrangements for dealing with offers of gifts, hospitality and sponsorship.

8. GAINING ASSURANCE ON THE CONDUCT OF JOINT COMMITTEE BUSINESS

8.0.1 The Joint Committee shall set out explicitly, within a Risk and Assurance Framework, how it will gain assurance, and how it will in turn provide assurance to LHBs jointly on the conduct of Joint Committee business, its governance and the effective management of risks in pursuance of its aims and objectives. It shall set out clearly the various sources of assurance, and where and when that assurance will be provided, in accordance with any requirements determined by the Welsh Ministers.

8.0.2 The Joint Committee shall ensure that its assurance arrangements are operating effectively, advised by the Joint Committee's Audit Committee.

³ Examples of 'modest and proportionate' hospitality that need not be included in a Hospitality register include a working sandwich lunch or a buffet lunch incidental to a conference or seminar attended by a variety of participants.

8.1 The role of Internal Audit in providing independent internal assurance

8.1.1 The Joint Committee shall ensure the effective provision of an independent internal audit function as a key source of its internal assurance arrangements, in accordance with NHS Wales Internal Auditing Standards and any others requirements determined by the Welsh Ministers.

8.2 Reviewing the performance of the Joint Committee, its joint sub-Committees, Expert Panel and Advisory Groups

8.2.1 The Joint Committee shall introduce a process of regular and rigorous self-assessment and evaluation of its own operations and performance and that of its Joint Committee Sub Group, expert panel and any other Advisory Groups. Where appropriate, the Joint Committee may determine that such evaluation may be independently facilitated.

8.2.2 Each Joint Committee Sub Group and, where appropriate, Expert Panel and any other Advisory Group must also submit an annual report to the Joint Committee through the Chair within six weeks of the end of the reporting year setting out its activities during the year and including the review of its performance and that of any sub-groups it has established.

8.2.3 The Joint Committee, and in turn the LHBs jointly shall use the information from this evaluation activity to inform:

- The ongoing development of its governance arrangements, including its structures and processes;
- Its Committee Development Programme, as part of an overall Organisation Development framework; and
- Inform each LHBs report of its alignment with the Welsh Government's Citizen Centred Governance Principles, completed as part of its ongoing review and reporting arrangements.

8.3 External Assurance

8.3.1 The Joint Committee shall ensure it develops effective working arrangements and relationships with those bodies that have a role in providing independent, external assurance to the public and others on the LHB's operations, e.g., the Auditor General for Wales and Healthcare Inspectorate Wales.

8.3.2 The Joint Committee may be assured, from the work carried out by external audit and others, on the adequacy of its own assurance framework, but that external assurance activity shall not form part of, or replace its own internal assurance arrangements, except in relation to any additional work that the Joint Committee itself may commission specifically for that purpose.

8.3.3 The Joint Committee shall keep under review and ensure that, where appropriate, the Joint Committee implements any recommendations relevant to its business made by the Welsh Government's Audit Committee, the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament's Public Accounts Committee and other appropriate bodies.

8.3.4 The Joint Committee shall provide the Auditor General for Wales with assistance, information and explanation which the Auditor General thinks necessary for the discharge of their statutory powers and responsibilities.

9. DEMONSTRATING ACCOUNTABILITY

9.0.1 Taking account of the arrangements set out within these EASC SOs, the Joint Committee shall demonstrate to the LHBs jointly, citizens and other stakeholders and to the Welsh Ministers a clear framework of accountability within which it:

- Conducts its business internally;
- Works collaboratively with NHS colleagues, partners, service providers and others; and
- Responds to the views and representations made by those who represent the interests of the citizens it serves, its officers and healthcare professionals.

9.0.2 The Joint Committee shall also facilitate effective scrutiny of its operations through the publication of regular reports on activity and performance, including publication of an Annual Report.

9.0.3 The Joint Committee shall ensure that within the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee Team (EASC T), individuals at all levels are supported in their roles, and held to account for their personal performance through effective performance management arrangements.

9.1 Support to the Joint Committee

9.1.1 The Committee Secretary, on behalf of the Joint Committee Chair, will ensure that the Joint Committee is properly equipped to carry out its role by:

- Overseeing the process of nomination and appointment to the Joint Committee;
- Co-ordinating and facilitating appropriate induction and organisational development activity;
- Ensuring the provision of governance advice and support to the Joint Committee Chair on the conduct of its business and its relationship with LHBs, the host LHB and others;
- Ensuring the provision of secretariat support for Joint Committee meetings;

- Ensuring that the Joint Committee receives the information it needs on a timely basis;
- Ensuring strong links to communities/groups;
- Ensuring an effective relationship between the Joint Committee and its host LHB; and
- Facilitating effective reporting to each LHB

enabling each LHB Board to gain assurance on the conduct of business carried out by Joint Committee on its behalf.

10. REVIEW OF STANDING ORDERS

10.0.1 The EASC SOs shall be reviewed annually by the Joint Committee, which shall report any proposed amendments to the LHBs jointly for consideration and approval. The requirement for review extends to all documents having the effect as if incorporated in EASC SOs, including the appropriate impact assessment.

Annex 1

**MODEL SCHEME OF RESERVATION AND DELEGATION
OF POWERS FOR THE EMERGENCY AMBULANCE
SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**This Annex forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the
Emergency Ambulance Services Committee Standing Orders**

MODEL SCHEME OF RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

**This Annex forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the
Emergency Ambulance Services Committee Standing Orders**

Introduction

As set out in EASC Standing Order 3, the Emergency Ambulance Services Committee (the Joint Committee) - subject to any directions that may be made by the Welsh Ministers - shall make appropriate arrangements for certain functions to be carried out on its behalf so that the day to day business of the Joint Committee may be carried out effectively, and in a manner that secures the achievement of the Joint Committee's aims and objectives. The Joint Committee may delegate functions to:

- i) A sub-Committee of the Joint Committee e.g., Audit Committee;
- ii) A Group, Expert Panel or Advisory Group, e.g., with other LHBs established to take forward certain matters relating to specialist services; and
- iii) Officers of the Joint Committee (who may, subject to the Joint Committee's authority, delegate further to other officers and, where appropriate, other third parties, e.g. shared/support services, through a formal scheme of delegation)

and in doing so, must set out clearly the terms and conditions upon which any delegation is being made. These terms and conditions must include a requirement that the Joint Committee is notified of any matters that may affect the operation and/or reputation of the Joint Committee.

The Joint Committee's determination of those matters that it will retain, and those that will be delegated to others are set out in the following:

- Schedule of matters reserved to the Joint Committee;
- Scheme of delegation to Joint Committee sub-Committee or sub Group and others; and
- Scheme of delegation to officers.

all of which form part of the EASC's SOs.

DECIDING WHAT TO RETAIN AND WHAT TO DELEGATE: GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The Joint Committee will take full account of the following principles when determining those matters that it reserves, and those which it will delegate to others to carry out on its behalf:

- **Everything is retained by the Joint Committee unless it is specifically delegated in accordance with the requirements set out in EASC SOs or EASC SFIs**
- **The Joint Committee must retain that which it is required to retain (whether by statute or as determined by the Welsh Government) as well as that which it considers is essential to enable it to fulfil its role in setting the Joint Committee's direction, equipping the Joint Committee to deliver and ensuring achievement of its aims and objectives through effective performance management**
- **Any decision made by the Joint Committee to delegate functions must be based upon an assessment of the capacity and capability of those to whom it is delegating responsibility**
- **The Joint Committee must ensure that those to whom it has delegated powers (whether a Committee, partnership or individuals) remain equipped to deliver on those responsibilities through an ongoing programme of personal, professional and organisational development**
- **The Joint Committee must take appropriate action to assure itself that all matters delegated are effectively carried out**
- **The framework of delegation will be kept under active review and, where appropriate, will be revised to take account of organisational developments, review findings or other changes**
- **The Joint Committee may delegate authority to act, but retains overall responsibility and accountability**
- **When delegating powers, the Joint Committee will determine whether (and the extent to which) those to whom it is delegating will, in turn, have powers to further delegate those functions to others.**

HANDLING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS: WHO DOES WHAT

The Joint Committee

The Joint Committee will formally agree, review and, where appropriate revise schedules of reservation and delegation of powers in accordance with the guiding principles set out earlier.

The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner

The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner will propose a Scheme of Delegation to Officers, setting out the functions they will perform personally and which functions will be delegated to other officers. The Joint Committee must formally agree this scheme.

In preparing the scheme of delegation to officers, the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner will take account of:

- The guiding principles set out earlier (including any specific statutory responsibilities designated to individual roles);
- Associated arrangements for the delegation of financial authority to equip officers to deliver on their delegated responsibilities (and set out in EASC SFIs);
- The Memorandum of Agreement agreed with the seven LHBs and approved by the Joint Committee; and
- The Hosting Agreement agreed with the host LHB and approved by the Joint Committee.

The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner may re-assume any of the powers they have delegated to others at any time.

The Committee Secretary

The Committee Secretary will support the Joint Committee in its handling of reservations and delegations by ensuring that:

- A proposed schedule of matters reserved for decision by the Joint Committee is presented to the Joint Committee for its formal agreement;
- Effective arrangements are in place for the delegation of Joint Committee functions within the organisation and to others, as appropriate; and
- Arrangements for reservation and delegation are kept under review and presented to the Joint Committee for revision, as appropriate.

The Audit and Risk Committee

The Audit and Risk Committee will provide assurance to the Joint Committee of the effectiveness of its arrangements for handling reservations and delegations.

Individuals to who powers have been delegated

Individuals will be personally responsible for:

- Equipping themselves to deliver on any matter delegated to them, through the conduct of appropriate training and development activity; and
- Exercising any powers delegated to them in a manner that accords with the Joint Committee's values and standards of behaviour.

Where an individual does not feel that they are equipped to deliver on a matter delegated to them, they must notify Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee at CTMUHB of their concern as soon as possible in so that an appropriate and timely decision may be made on the matter.

In the absence of an officer to whom powers have been delegated, those powers will normally be exercised by the individual to whom that officer reports, unless the Joint Committee has set out alternative arrangements.

If the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner is absent their nominated Assistant may exercise those powers delegated to the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner on their behalf. However, the guiding principles governing delegations will still apply, and so the Joint Committee may determine that it will reassume certain powers delegated to the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner or reallocate powers, e.g., to a Committee or another officer.

The Quality and Safety Committee

The Quality and Safety Committee at CTMUHB will provide assurance to the Joint Committee of the effectiveness of its arrangements for managing quality and safety.

Individuals to who powers have been delegated

Individuals will be personally responsible for:

- Equipping themselves to deliver on any matter delegated to them, through the conduct of appropriate training and development activity; and
- Exercising any powers delegated to them in a manner that accords with the Joint Committee's values and standards of behaviour.

Where an individual does not feel that they are equipped to deliver on a matter delegated to them, they must notify Chair of the Quality and Safety Committee at CTMUHB of their concern as soon as possible in so that an appropriate and timely decision may be made on the matter.

In the absence of an officer to whom powers have been delegated, those powers will normally be exercised by the individual to whom that officer reports, unless the Joint Committee has set out alternative arrangements.

If the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner is absent their nominated Assistant may exercise those powers delegated to the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner on their behalf. However, the guiding principles governing delegations will still apply, and so the Joint Committee may determine that it will reassume certain powers delegated to the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner or reallocate powers, e.g., to a Committee or another officer.

SCOPE OF THESE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE RESERVATION AND DELEGATION OF POWERS

The Scheme of Delegation to officers referred to here shows only the "top level" of delegation within the Joint Committee. The Scheme is to be used in conjunction with the system of control and other established procedures within the Joint Committee.

SCHEDULE OF MATTERS RESERVED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE⁴

THE JOINT COMMITTEE		AREA	DECISIONS RESERVED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE
1	FULL	GENERAL	The Joint Committee may determine any matter for which it has statutory or delegated authority, in accordance with EASC SOs
2	FULL	GENERAL	The Joint Committee must determine any matter that will be reserved to the whole Joint Committee. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborative Commissioning Framework Agreement(s) • EAS Integrated Medium Term Plan
3	FULL	GENERAL	Approve the Joint Committee's Governance Framework
4	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Vary, amend and recommend for approval to the Boards of the Local Health Boards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EASC SOs ; ▪ EASC SFIs; ▪ Schedule of matters reserved to the Joint Committee; ▪ Scheme of delegation to sub-Committees and others; and ▪ Scheme of delegation to officers. In accordance with any directions set by the Welsh Ministers.

⁴ Any decision to reserve a matter, and the manner in which that retained responsibility is carried out will be in accordance with any regulatory and/or Welsh Government requirements.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE		AREA	DECISIONS RESERVED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE
5	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Ratify any urgent decisions taken by the Chair and the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner in accordance with EASC Standing Order requirements
6	NO – Nominated Audit Committee	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Formal consideration of report of Committee Secretary on any non-compliance with EASC Standing Orders, making proposals to the Joint Committee on any action to be taken.
7	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Receive report and proposals regarding any non-compliance with EASC Standing Orders, and where required ratify in public session any instances of failure to comply with EASC SOs
8	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve the Joint Committee's Values and Standards of Behaviour framework – CTMUHB Standards of Behaviour policy adopted
9	NO – Chair on behalf of Joint Committee/Vice-Chair on behalf of Joint Committee if Chair is declaring interest	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Require, receive and determine action in response to the declaration of Joint Committee members' interests, in accordance with advice received, e.g. From Audit Committee or Committee Secretary
10	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Determine the long term strategic plan, for the development of emergency ambulance services and non-patient transport services in Wales, in conjunction with the Welsh Ministers.
11	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the Joint Committee's key strategies and programmes related to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Commissioning Plan and Population Health Needs Assessment ▪ The development and delivery of emergency ambulance and non-emergency patient Transport services for the population of Wales ▪ Improving quality and patient safety outcomes

EASC Standing Orders

THE JOINT COMMITTEE		AREA	DECISIONS RESERVED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Workforce and Organisational Development Infrastructure, including IM &T, Estates and Capital (including major capital investment and disposal plans)
12	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the Joint Committee's Integrated Medium Term Plan, including the balanced Medium Term Financial Plan
13	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the Joint Committee's budget and financial framework (including overall distribution of the financial allocation and unbudgeted expenditure)
14	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve the Joint Committee's framework and strategy for performance management.
15	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve the Joint Committee's framework and strategy for risk and assurance.
16	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Agree the arrangements for ensuring the adoption of standards of governance and performance (including the quality and safety of healthcare, and the patient experience) to be met by the Joint Committee, including standards/requirements determined by Welsh Government, regulators, professional bodies/others, e.g., National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE)
17	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve the introduction or discontinuance of any significant activity or operation. Any activity or operation shall be regarded as significant if the Joint Committee determines it so based upon its contribution/impact on the achievement of the Joint Committee's aims, objectives and priorities
18	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Approve the appointment, appraisal, discipline and dismissal of officer member of the Joint Committee employed by the host Local Health board (Chief Ambulance Commissioner) in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations and in accordance with Ministerial Instructions.

THE JOINT COMMITTEE		AREA	DECISIONS RESERVED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE
19	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Approve the appointment, appraisal, discipline and dismissal of any other Joint Committee level appointments and other senior employees, in accordance with Ministerial Instructions e.g. the Committee Secretary.
20	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Consider and approve redundancy and Early Release Applications, noting that where the settlement is £50,000 or above subsequent agreement of Welsh Government is required.
21	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Appoint, [arrange the] review, revise and dismiss Joint Committee sub-groups, including any joint sub-groups directly accountable to the Joint Committee
22	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Appoint, equip, review and (where appropriate) dismiss the Chair and members of any Joint Committee sub-groups, or Group set up by the Joint Committee
23	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Appoint, equip, review and (where appropriate) dismiss individuals appointed to represent the Joint Committee on outside bodies and groups
24	FULL	ORGANISATION STRUCTURE & STAFFING	Approve the standing orders and terms of reference and reporting arrangements of all Joint Committee sub-groups, and groups established by the Joint Committee
25	FULL – except where Chapter 6 specifies appropriate to delegate to Officers.	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve individual cases for the write off of losses or making of special payments above the limits of delegation to the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner and officers

EASC Standing Orders

THE JOINT COMMITTEE		AREA	DECISIONS RESERVED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE
26	FULL	OPERATING ARRANGEMENTS	Approve proposals for action on litigation on behalf of the Joint Committee
27	FULL	STRATEGY & PLANNING	Approve individual contracts (other than NHS contracts) above the limit delegated to the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner set out in the EASC SFIs
28	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Approve the Joint Committee's audit and assurance arrangements
29	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive reports from the Joint Committee's EASC Team on progress and performance in the delivery of the Joint Committee's strategic aims, objectives and priorities and approve action required, including improvement plans
30	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive assurance reports from the Joint Committee sub-groups, groups and other internal sources on the Joint Committee's performance and approve action required, including improvement plans
31	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive reports on the Joint Committee's performance produced by external regulators and inspectors (including, e.g., WAO, HIW, etc.) that raise issue or concerns impacting on the Joint Committee's ability to achieve its aims and objectives and approve action required, including improvement plans, taking account of the advice of Joint Committee sub-groups (as appropriate)
32	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive the annual opinion of the Joint Committee's Chief Internal Auditor and approve action required, including improvement plans
33	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive the annual management report from the Joint Committee's external auditor and approve action required, including improvement plans
34	FULL	PERFORMANCE & ASSURANCE	Receive assurance regarding the Joint Committee's performance against the Health and Care Quality Standards 2023 and the arrangements for approving required action, including improvement plans

EASC Standing Orders

THE JOINT COMMITTEE		AREA	DECISIONS RESERVED TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE
35	FULL	REPORTING	Approve the Joint Committee's Reporting Arrangements, including reports on activity and performance locally, to citizens, partners and stakeholders and nationally to the Welsh Government where required.
36	FULL	REPORTING	Receive, approve and ensure the publication of Joint Committee reports, including its Annual Report and annual financial accounts in accordance with directions and guidance issued.

ADDITIONAL AREAS OF RESPONSIBILITY DELEGATED TO CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR			
34	CHAIR		In accordance with statutory and Welsh Government requirements
35	VICE-CHAIR		In accordance with statutory and Welsh Government requirements

DELEGATION OF POWERS TO SUB-COMMITTEES AND OTHERS⁵

EASC Standing Order 3 provides that the Joint Committee may delegate powers to sub-groups and others. In doing so, the Joint Committee has formally determined:

- the composition, terms of reference and reporting requirements in respect of any such sub-Groups; and
- the governance arrangements, terms and conditions and reporting requirements in respect of any delegation to others.

in accordance with any regulatory requirements and any directions set by the Welsh Ministers.

The Joint Committee has delegated a range of its powers to the following sub-Committees and others:

- Audit and Risk Committee (Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board)
- Quality and Safety Committee (Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board)
- EASC Management Group
- Non-emergency patient transport services (NEPTS)
- Emergency medical retrieval and transfer services (EMRTS Cymru)

The scope of the powers delegated, together with the requirements set by the Joint Committee in relation to the exercise of those powers are as set out in i) sub-Group terms of reference, and ii) formal arrangements for the delegation of powers to others. Collectively, these documents form the Joint Committee's Scheme of Delegation to Joint Committee Sub Groups.

⁵ As defined in Standing Orders

SCHEME OF DELEGATION TO EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES TEAM AND OFFICERS

The EASC SOs and EASC SFIs specify certain key responsibilities of the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner, the Director of Finance (WHSSC/EASC) and other officers. The Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner’s Job Description sets out their specific responsibilities, and the individual job descriptions determined for other EASC Team level posts also define in detail the specific responsibilities assigned to those post holders.

These documents, set out in detail, together with the schedule of additional delegations below and the associated financial delegations set out in the EASC SFIs form the basis of the Joint Committee’s Scheme of Delegation to Officers.

DELEGATED MATTER	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER(S)
WAST payments monthly	Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner (CASC) and Director of Finance
Information Governance arrangements	Committee Secretary (in line with CTMUHB as host LHB)
Management of concerns	Committee Secretary (in line with CTMUHB as host LHB)
Health and safety arrangements	Lead Director / Committee Secretary (in line with CTMUHB as host LHB)
Investigate any suspected cases of irregularity not related to fraud and corruption in accordance with Government directions	CASC / Chair EASC / Director of Finance/ Committee Secretary
Issuing tenders and post tender negotiations	CASC / Lead Director / Director of Finance
Legal Advice	Committee Secretary (in line with CTMUHB)
Action on litigation	Lead Director / Committee Secretary (in line with CTMUHB as host LHB)

DELEGATED MATTER	RESPONSIBLE OFFICER(S)
Operation of detailed financial matters including bank accounts and banking procedures	Director of Finance (with host LHB Director of Finance)
Workforce	Committee Secretary (in line with CTMUHB as host LHB)
Public Consultation	CASC
Manage central reserves and contingencies	Director of Finance
Manage and control of stocks other than pharmacy stocks	Committee Secretary (in line with CTMUHB as host LHB)
Monitor and achievement of management cost targets	CASC
Recording of payments under the losses and compensation regulations	Director of Finance

This scheme only relates to matters delegated by the Joint Committee to the Chief Ambulance Services Commissioner and other members of the EASC Team together with certain other specific matters referred to in EASC SFIs.

Each member of the EASC Team is responsible for delegation within their department. They shall produce a scheme of delegation for matters within their department, which shall also set out how departmental budget and procedures for approval of expenditure are delegated (aligned to the arrangements of the host body).

Annex 2

KEY GUIDANCE, INSTRUCTIONS AND OTHER RELATED DOCUMENTS

This Annex forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the EMERGENCY AMBULANCE Services Committee Standing Orders

Joint Committee framework

The Joint Committee's governance and accountability framework comprises these EASC SOs, incorporating schedules of Powers reserved for the Joint Committee and Delegation to others, together with the following documents:

- EASC SFIs
- Scheme of Delegation
- Values and Standards of Behaviour Framework - CTMUHB Standards of Behaviour Policy (incorporating declarations of interest, gifts, hospitality, sponsorship and honoraria).
- Risk Register
- Key policy documents

agreed by the Joint Committee. These documents must be read in conjunction with the EASC SOs and will have the same effect as if the details within them were incorporated within the EASC SOs themselves.

These documents may be accessed by:

[EASC Website](https://easc.nhs.wales/) <https://easc.nhs.wales/>




NHS Wales framework

Full, up to date details of the guidance, instructions and other documents that together make up the framework of governance, accountability and assurance for the NHS in Wales are published on the NHS Wales Governance e-Manual which can be accessed at <https://nwssp.nhs.wales/all-wales-programmes/governance-e-manual/>. Directions or guidance on specific aspects of Joint Committee business are also issued electronically, usually under cover of a Welsh Health Circular.

Annex 3

JOINT COMMITTEE SUB-COMMITTEE ARRANGEMENTS

This Annex forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the
EMERGENCY AMBULANCE SERVICES COMMITTEE Standing Orders

Sub Groups	Terms of Reference
EASC Management Group	 EASC Management Group TOR approved
Emergency Medical Retrieval and Transfer Service (EMRTS Cymru) Delivery Assurance Group (DAG)	 EMRTS DAG Terms of Reference approved
Non-Emergency Patient Transport Service Delivery Assurance Group (NEPTS DAG)	 NEPTS DAG Terms of Reference approved

Annex 4

ADVISORY GROUPS AND EXPERT PANELS

Terms of Reference and Operating Arrangements

**This Annex forms part of, and shall have effect as if incorporated in the
Emergency Ambulance Services Committee Standing Orders**

Terms of Reference to be included when required. No advisory groups or expert panels at time of approval – September 2023