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Pwyllgor Gwasanaethau Iechyd  
Arbenigol Cymru (PGIAC)  
Welsh Health Specialised  
Services Committee (WHSSC)

Your ref/eich cyf:  
Our ref/ein cyf: VH.KS  
Date/dyddiad: 14<sup>th</sup> July 2020  
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WHSSC Joint Committee Members

Dear Colleague

**Re: Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee ("WHSSC") – Revision of Standing Orders**

It is necessary to ensure that the WHSSC Standing Orders ("WHSSC SOs") are kept up to date and take account of any developments. Whilst WHSSC is responsible for review of its own standing orders it is informed by Model standing orders issued using the Welsh Ministers power of direction in accordance with the National Health Service (Wales) Act 2006.

The WHSSC Governance and Accountability Framework ("GAF"), which comprises the WHSSC SOs and certain associated documents, was reviewed in the context of the new Model standing orders issued by Welsh Government under Welsh Health Circular 2019/027 in September 2019.

On 5 July 2020, in response to the suspension of recruitment to public appointments in Wales, the National Health Service (Temporary Disapplication of Tenure of Office) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 came into force. The purpose of these Regulations is to dis-apply the maximum tenure of office contained in the specified regulations for NHS board/committee non-officer members for a time limited period.

WHSSC received Welsh Health Circular 2020/111 on the 9 July outlining the amendments required to the WHSSC SOs in response to these Regulations and these changes are set out below.

The amendments, shown below in **red**, are required to the WHSSC SOs with immediate effect. They will cease to have effect on the 31 March 2021 or where an appointment(s) has been made under the National Health Service (Temporary Disapplication of Tenure of Office) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020 at the end of that term, whichever is the later.

*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*

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**Welsh Health Specialised Services Committee**  
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**Chair/Cadeirydd:** *Professor Vivienne Harpwood*

**Managing Director of Specialised and Tertiary Services Commissioning/Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Dros Dro Comisiynu Gwasanaethau Arbenigol a Thrydyddol:** *Dr Sian Lewis*

more than 8 years, *with the exception of those appointed or reappointed in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Health Service (Temporary Disapplication of Tenure of Office) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. These members will hold office in accordance with the terms of their appointment or re-appointment. 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 and two other Independent Members shall be appointed by the Joint Committee from existing Independent Members 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 4 years, in line with that individual's term of office on any LHB Board, *with the exception of those appointed or re-appointed in accordance with Regulation 4 of the National Health Service (Temporary Disapplication of Tenure of Office) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020. These members will hold office in accordance with the terms of their appointment or re-appointment. Time served need not be consecutive and will still be counted towards the total period even where there is a break in the term.*

### **Chair's Action**

I confirm that by this letter, acting in conjunction with Dr Sian Lewis, Managing Director of WHSSC, and Mr Paul Griffiths, an Independent Member of WHSSC, I have taken Chair's Action to vary elements of the GAF and, in particular in response to the National Health Service (Temporary Disapplication of Tenure of Office) (Wales) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020, the above changes shown in red above will temporarily be made to the WHSSC SOs.

I am also taking action to recommend the amended WHSSC SOs being taken forward for approval by the seven Welsh local health boards.

This matter will be reported on at the next Joint Committee meeting for ratification.

If you require further information or clarification regarding this matter, please contact Kevin Smith, Committee Secretary, in the first instance.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Vivienne Harpwood**  
**Chair**

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