



WELSH HEALTH CIRCULAR

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Title:	2026/27 NHS Wales Financial Monitoring Return Guidance
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Action by:	Chief Executives & Directors of Finance LHBs/SHAs/Trusts/NWSSP/JCC
Required by:	Refer to Annex 1 within Guidance
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Enclosures:	Covering Letter & Guidance

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Our Ref: HJ/AJH/001

29 April 2026

Dear Colleague

Please find enclosed the 2026/27 NHS Wales monthly financial monitoring return guidance and associated submission templates.

Organisations are required to develop robust plans that deliver against the priorities set out in the 2026-27 NHS Planning Framework, within the 2026/27 funding allocations. A clear expectation has been set that organisations will operate within core allocations.

For some NHS bodies there were significant challenges in ensuring effective financial delivery against their 2025/26 board approved plans, and challenges in ensuring that monthly monitoring submissions clearly and robustly set out the position and actions to support delivery.

Within that context, for 2026/27 I am reiterating the importance of ensuring your monthly financial returns are robust and provide absolute clarity on the assessed forecast outturn position. Key to this, is the early finalisation of assumed savings, and mitigation of risks.

Whilst best practice is recognised as having all planned savings schemes finalised by the commencement of the new financial year, we have set a firm deadline of the 30 June 2026 (end of Quarter One) for all savings that were assumed in the plan, to meet the required Green/Amber classification. For those schemes still classified as Amber at that point, the scheme must be converted to Green within 3-months of the entry being made into the template, with the final deadline being 30 September 2026 (mid-year point).

You are reminded that it is essential that your monthly financial returns include a robust assessment of your forecast outturn position. This needs to be supported by high quality financial information which complies with the attached guidance.

Only financial risks that are material by nature or could have a material impact on the forecast position, and only those that the organisation currently has no ability to mitigate, should be included in the submission. Opportunities to both mitigate and recover positions, must be finalised at pace, to deliver forecasts.

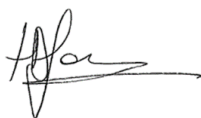
I remind you that this information should form a key part of the financial governance of your Board, and the timeliness and quality of the information provided should reflect that.

Through the revised assurance framework for 2026/27 Welsh Government has emphasised the importance of ensuring the provision of timely, accurate data on a monthly basis, and from a financial perspective the monthly monitoring returns will continue to be the key mechanism for that requirement.

Whilst it has been a long-standing requirement for the MMR submission to be authorised by both the Chief Executive and Finance Director; going forward, the WG's monthly response letters to the organisation will also be shared with Chief Executives.

The detailed guidance sets out the changes made this year to the data requirements and completion principles.

Yours sincerely



Hywel Jones

Cyfarwyddwr Cyllid - Director of Finance

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