12 November 2026

Dear

ATISN 26-0034 - NHS Wales procurement guidance

Thank you for your request to Welsh Government for information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) received on 15 October 2026 in relation to a statement you attributed to Audit Wales on 14 October 2026:

“During our NHS audits, we check that Welsh Government have approved or have been notified of contracts above £1m in line with the relevant Standing Financial Instructions. We do not review or reperform any checks the Welsh Government may do on these contracts.”

You requested:

1. Basic Contract Value Thresholds & Approval Levels Guide The simple staff-level document (table, matrix, intranet page, or PDF) that sets out:

1a. All NHS Wales / NWSSP contract value bands,
1b. Delegated authority thresholds,
1c. Who approves what,
1d. When Welsh Government must be notified,
1e. When Welsh Government must approve.

2. Basic “How to Check a Contract Notification” Guide The simple internal guide/checklist used by Welsh Government staff when a contract is submitted or notified, covering:

2a. What fields to check,
2b. What documents to confirm,
2c. Where delegated authority is verified,
2d. How Standing Financial Instructions are checked,
2e. How the outcome is recorded.

3. Basic SFI Compliance Check Guide. The simple staff-level document explaining:

3a. How officials confirm SFI compliance,
3b. How delegated authority is verified,
3c. What triggers escalation,
3d. What to do if a contract exceeds a threshold.

4. Basic STA / Novel or Contentious Spend Guide The simple internal guide explaining:

4a. How staff identify a Single Tender Action (STA),
4b. How justification is checked,
4c. How novel/contentious spend is escalated,
4d. What approval route applies.

5. Basic Hosted-Body Governance Responsibilities Guide (NWSSP / Velindre / JCC) The simple staff-level document explaining:

5a. Who is responsible for what,
5b. How hosted-body approvals work,
5c. how NWSSP / Velindre / JCC boundaries operate,
5d. How Welsh Government checks hosted-body submissions.

6. Basic Contract Notification Log / Register Template The simple template or format used by Welsh Government staff to record:

6a. Contract notifications received,
6b. Value band,
6c. Approval requirement,
6d. And decision (approved / noted / queried / rejected).

Our Response

Section 1

1a. LHB contracts over £1 million require Welsh Government approval by the Health Care and Prevention Group Director General before the contract can be awarded. NHS Trusts do not require Welsh Government consent but they must notify Welsh Government about the details and value of all contracts awarded over £1 million.

The requirement for consent does not apply to any contracts entered into pursuant to a specific statutory power, and therefore does not apply to:

i) Contracts of employment between LHBs, HEIW, or DHCW and their staff;

ii) Transfers of land or contracts effected by Statutory Instrument following the creation of LHBs, HEIW, or DHCW;

iii) Out of Hours contracts;

iv) All NHS contracts; that is where one health services body contracts with another health service body;

(v) Contracts entered into by HEIW for services which are the consequences of annual commissioning approved by the Cabinet Secretary e.g. annual education and training commissioning also do not require further Ministerial notification or consent; and

(vi) Contracts between £500k - £1 million (for noting) and £1 million + (for approval).

1b. Delegated authority is given to Local Health Boards to approve contracts below £1 million.

1c. LHB contracts over £1million are approved by the HSP Director General.

1d. See responses 1a to 1c.

1e. See responses 1a to 1c.

Section 2

2a. Contact Name:

Contract Title & Reference:
Purpose of the Contract:
Contract Description:
Rationale for Private Sector Procurement:
Name(s) of the Contractor(s)
(Parties to the contract):

What is included in the Contract

(Goods / Services / Property):

Total Value of the Initial Contract Period (not including any extension options)

Total Value of Potential Contract including all Extension Options

Annual Value of Contract:

Indicate financial impact of new agreement (eg. cost saving/cost increase/cost neutral)

OJEU Requirements Satisfied:

If OJEU Requirements Not Satisfied, Please Give Reasons:

Duration of the Contract including details of option to extend, start & finish dates:

Confirmation of Funding Stream:

Identified Risks:

Any Other Relevant Information:(Date of initial Contract Briefing Paper to be included here)

2b. See response to 2a.

2c. Any item above £1 million is verified.

2d. Contract is evaluated against the requirements in Chapter 11 of LHB SFI's .

Interim changes to NHS model standing financial instructions (WHC/2025/012) [HTML] | GOV.WALES

2e. Contract approvals and registered notifications are communicated back to organisations via NWSSP.

Section 3

3a. See above-evaluating against Chapter 11.

3b. Contract values are included in the Procurement request.

3c. Procurement request higher than £1 million threshold.

3d. Any contract above £1 million requires WG approval, subject to exclusions above.

Section 4

4a. Welsh Government does not hold the information you have requested. You may wish to contact the NWSSP for this information.

4b. See response to 4b.

4c. Novel and contentious spend should be discussed with Welsh Government.

4d. See response to 4b.

Section 5

5a. Welsh Government does not hold the information you have requested. You may wish to contact NWSSP, Velindre and JCC for this information.

5b. See response to 5a.

5c. See response to 5a.

5d. All hosted body submissions are checked in line with procedures outlined above in 2a.

Section 6

6a. No specific template document is held. Details of internal processes are recorded in response section 2.

6b. See response to 6a.

6c. See response to 6a.

6d. See response to 6a.

Next Steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,

Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ
or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office
4th Floor
No. 3 Circle Square
5 Hawkshaw Street
Manchester
M1 7BL
Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Website: www.ico.org.uk

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely,