

NATIONAL IMAGING PROGRAMME NEWSLETTER



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Rhaglen Delwedd
Genedlaethol
National Imaging
Programme

APRIL 2026



Welcome to the sixteenth edition of the National Imaging Programme Newsletter!

Introduction to Alexandra Simmonds

As some of you may already know, Alexandra Simmonds has been appointed the new Assistant Director for the National Diagnostics Programme, who had this to say:

"I'm delighted to join the Diagnostics Programme in NHS Wales Performance & Improvement and to work alongside passionate colleagues who want to deliver meaningful transformation in Imaging. I recognise the pressures you are facing in meeting diagnostic performance targets within the current financial climate, and am committed to supporting you, while building on the excellent teamwork and innovation already evident across our services.

I'm particularly keen to support the National Imaging Programmes aims for a sustainable workforce, recognising the pivotal role they play in diagnostic performance and service resilience, and look forward to listening, learning, and working together moving forward to strengthen diagnostic pathways for the people of Wales."

The National Imaging Programme would like to thank Alexandra for their support and wish them good luck in their new role.

Highlights

- Introduction to Alexandra Simmonds
- Workforce and Education Update
- Ultrasound update
- Quality Update
- Emily Jarman Maternity





Workforce and Education Update

With the aims and objectives of this group realised and IWETG subsequently closed, we would like to take this opportunity to extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to members for their contribution and dedication. Looking ahead, the Programme will place greater emphasis on dedicated Task and Finish Groups to drive forward key aims, and we look forward to continuing our collaboration with colleagues across NHS Wales.

The Workforce and Education Transformation Group (IWETG) played a pivotal role in advancing the recommendations outlined in the [Strategy for Developing a Radiology Workforce Model for Wales](#) and supporting aims within the HEIW Diagnostics Workforce Plan.





GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

Gill Lingwood (Programme Manager – National Imaging Programme) has recently been working with sites to validate non-obstetric ultrasound waiting lists. While the initial aim was to gain insight into clinical demand management, this work has also highlighted several areas requiring further development, including data management, clarity in reporting, patient examination data input, and appointment booking processes.

"This has been a valuable and insightful piece of work, and I would like to thank the departments involved for their support. It is encouraging to see a number of tangible opportunities emerging particularly around data and clinical guidance that we can now take forward as a team to help improve patient waiting times and the data we use."

Ultrasound update



Gill has also progressed work on a new podcast resource focused on managing repetitive strain injury (RSI) in ultrasound users. Developed in response to themes identified through focus group discussions in Gill's research, the project addresses growing concerns around increasing RSI rates and sickness absence linked to workforce pressures within sonography.

The podcast series will include three episodes covering a range of topics, including leadership approaches, DATIX and RIDDOR reporting, and personal health and wellbeing. Once editing is complete, the episodes will be made available via our website.



GIG
CYMRU
NHS
WALES

James Triscott, Emily Jarmann, Paul Johnston, Helen Hughes and the members of the All-Wales Imaging Quality Forum have been working hard over the past few years to develop crucial documents: the Ultrasound Framework document & the Non-Medical Referrer SBAR document. The Ultrasound Framework document provides a governance framework for ultrasound services across Wales for utilisation by local Health Board Ultrasound Governance Groups. The Non-Medical Referrer SBAR provides recommendations to enable the development of a standardised policy for use in all Health Boards and NHS Trusts in Wales. Further information regarding these documents can be found on our website: [Resources](#)

Quality Update



Emily Jarmann Maternity Leave!

Our very own Emily Jarmann has taken her maternity leave with her second child. Her dedication as a Project Manager and all her work on quality and sustainability has been truly appreciated, and she will be greatly missed by the team while she is away. We look forward to welcoming her back refreshed and inspired when she returns in 2027. Good luck Emily!

