

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
1 Appoint an oversight body	a. The WRU should appoint an external oversight group of no fewer than 3 people. At least one should be nominated by an outside body and at least one experienced in people management or organisational culture.	We will appoint this oversight group.	Revised to 30 April 2024	Dame Anne Rafferty appointed as Chair and Dame Katherine Grainger has been appointed to the Group. One further appointment will be made shortly.
	b. For the next 3 years the WRU should report quarterly to this group, setting out its goals, actions taken to meet them and how success is measured. We hope that substantial progress will be made in the first year but recommend that the body stays in place for 3 years so it can oversee the constitutional review and changes.	We will report quarterly to this external oversight group (EOG).	Week of 18 January 2024 and each calendar quarter thereafter	Report to 14 January shared with Dame Anne in February; Report to be published April 2024.
	c. The group's remit should be to consider steps by the WRU to implement the recommendations in this report and to create an inclusive environment for staff and for all those involved in rugby in Wales.	We will agree terms of reference for the EOG and include this in the remit.	Terms to be finalised by 31 May 2024	Draft discussed with Oversight Group Chair and will be agreed with the group once all the members have been appointed. Target date of 31 May 2024.
2 Continue reform of the Board	a. The WRU is a national sporting organisation which is also a large corporate body. Its Board must be an efficient body with clear responsibilities for the governance of all aspects of the WRU and should not be seen as just representing the community clubs. The executive should report to the Board on all aspects of the WRU's work.	We agree – the full new Board has been announced and is in place as at 1 January 2024. The Executive does report to the Board on all aspects of its work. We will ensure the Executive reports on all aspects of work; concisely and effectively.	14 January 2024	CEO reporting in place and will be further developed as goals and KPIs are developed for the new strategy from June 2024.
	b. The size of the Board should be further reduced to 10 by lowering the number of Council representatives, elected or appointed, to 2 from currently 4. The changes made at the March 2023 EGM should be given time to take effect before further reform of the Board, so this change need not be immediate but be developed during the 3 years in which the oversight body operates.	The governance changes which were set out at the EGM on 26 March have been implemented within the specified time period with the number of Council Members elected to the Board reduced to 4. The new Board is in place as of 1 January 2024. We will commission the governance review after there has been a period of operation of the new Board and work with Member Clubs and Council to discuss these recommendations in the light of this review.	To be discussed – 31 December 2025	Governance review to be commissioned Spring 2025 to report September 2025 and 2025 AGM. Implementation by December 2026.
	c. We recommend that within two years the WRU commissions an external report on governance. That report should consider how the March 2023 reforms are operating and how committees can be streamlined to avoid duplication (along with other relevant matters).	We will commission an external report and review our sub-committees and establish the necessary number to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in the relevant subject areas. The Board Committees have been streamlined and in addition to the Professional Rugby Board (PRB) and Community Rugby Board (CRB) will include a Finance Audit and Risk Committee, and a People, Culture and Governance Committee.	31 December 2025	Governance review to be commissioned Spring 2025 to report September 2025 and 2025 AGM.
	d. Implement a “fit and proper person” test for Council/Board members and candidates for the Council/Board. Board members, elected or appointed, should be able to show that their membership of the Board would not undermine the reputation of the WRU or make it harder for the WRU to promote rugby in Wales.	A fit and proper person test was introduced for appointments to the Board made over the last 6 months. It was also used for Council elections that took place in 2023.	31 March 2024	A fit and proper person test is in place for all current and future Board and Council appointments. It will continue to be used going forwards. Directors and Council Members will be asked to renew attestation on an annual basis.

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
e.	There should always be a current strategic plan for key areas of the sport, shared with relevant managers and (subject to competitor knowledge) published. This should include professional rugby, community rugby, men's rugby, women's and girls' rugby, rugby for those with disabilities, and broadening inclusion. All plans must be approved by the Board. Staff need to understand what they are asked to deliver.	We commit to this and to make this public. Our new strategic plan conversations have already started and will be completed with the support of stakeholders. This plan will be reviewed at least annually going forwards. We will produce a WRU Group Strategic Plan ready to be published by 30 June 2024.	30 June 2024	Strategy process is underway including consultaion with stakeholders. A Board session took place in April.
f.	Set up a structured system for reporting to the Board which includes:	We commit to ensuring that the reports available to the Board are clear, concise and contain the relevant amount of information to inform, discuss or make decisions as appropriate. We commit to ensuring that all Executive KPIs are shared and monitored once they have been thoroughly developed to align with our new strategy. The KPIs will cover all aspects of WRU performance, including People, Operational Performance, Finance, Programme Delivery, Risk and Assurance.	31 March 2024	New system to be in place.
i.	Written reports to the Board from the executive at least quarterly and always in good time prior to each Board meeting.		Executive Board KPIs to initially be short term and then from 30 June 2024 in line with new Group Strategy	
ii.	Papers to the Board should identify relevant options and include clear decision-making principles or criteria.			
iii.	Each report should include KPIs for individual members of the executive and departments of the WRU which should be monitored and appraised.			
g.	The administration of the Board should be streamlined:	We have already hired some immediate support and we commit to ensuring the resources are available to enable us to deliver on this element.	14 January 2024	Support in place to identify needs and develop capacity. Ongoing resource requirements are being reviewed to ensure right level of capacity and capability is in place.
i.	A dedicated support service should be provided to help the Chair, chairs of committees and Board members with their roles.			
ii.	Each Board member should participate in a skills review, have a skills matrix drawn up on appointment and be encouraged to undertake appropriate development according to needs identified on their skills matrix.	A skills and experience review of the existing Board was carried out prior to the recruitment of the new Board members; this will be populated further with the skills of the new Board members and refreshed every year.	31 March 2024	Skills and EDI audit for current Board inplace. Skills review to be done annually thereafter. Paper on this to be taken to the Board in May 2024.
iii.	Everyone appointed to the Board should be offered induction training on (i) their duties as a director; (ii) good practice in governance; (iii) equality, diversity and inclusion; (iv) representing the WRU; and (v) the current state of Welsh rugby and the WRU's strategic plans.	Induction training has already been discussed by the Board and a new comprehensive induction programme has already commenced. We will take on board recommendations from throughout this report and integrate relevant points into the induction process. We commit that all Board and Council Members will receive a detailed induction and the development training as identified in the recommendations.	31 March 2024	Induction programme has been implemented, with all new Directors having received an induction. Feedback on induction programme has been requested from Directors. Induction programme will be reviewed and refreshed, taking into account feedback received. Training offering to Directors will then be tailored (also linked to Board effectiveness review).
iv.	The role of executive staff attending the Board should be clarified.	Agreed, this has been done.	14 January 2024	Executive staff attend meetings for relevant agenda items, where the CEO requires specialist input. All Board meetings to have NED only session.
v.	Clarify the fiduciary role of Board members to oversee all the activities of the company, uphold its values and respect one another's skills and experience.	Agreed, this has been a key consideration of the recruitment process for the new Board. The Board has already discussed this and will spend some time in early 2024 discussing this in practice.	14 January 2024	Discussed and agreed with Board members. Ongoing Board training programme started in the 25 April 2024 Board meeting with expected further sessions.

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
3 Council	In view of the duplication of Members between Council and Community Game Board, the shared responsibility for establishing the strategy for community rugby, seeking Board approval and then delivering the approved strategy, the constitutional structure should be streamlined and simplified in a single entity. It could perhaps be described as the Community Council. It should be expanded to include a wider group of stakeholders.	This will require the consent of member clubs and Council as this structure is embedded in our Articles. We will consult on these recommendations with these bodies, understand in more detail the concerns behind the current structure and develop a plan.	To be discussed – 31 December 2025	Consultation with stakeholders; Cocreation of a plan for way forward, AGM 2025 to discuss.
	<p>To fulfil this role the Community Council should be drawn from a broader base of those involved in rugby in Wales:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Membership of the Community Council should be a maximum 16 (Currently we understand the Council has 19 members: 5 National Council members and 14 District Council members – 2 each from Districts A – E and 1 each from F, G, H and J. Following the EGM in March 2023 the Board may appoint up to 6 Council members.): 9 elected from districts, 1 elected nationally and 6 representing other rugby community interests, as set out below. ii. The six new places on the Community Council should be for people representing (1) schools rugby; (2) rugby in colleges and universities; (3) community rugby players (The WRU will need to consult and draw up a definition. We recommend a broad definition. One option is election by captains of teams that play in leagues in Wales other than the regional sides in the United Rugby Championship. However, the exact approach we leave to the WRU.); (4) women's and girls' rugby (5) rugby for players with a disability and (6) officials. Where possible these should be elected but it might be difficult to identify an electorate and arrange elections at a reasonable cost in all these areas. If so, the WRU should run a competitive appointment process according to a person specification it should draw up. iii. Members of the Community Council should be limited to 3 consecutive terms of 3 years (with the possibility of re-election after one fallow period). iv. The individual elected nationally should chair the Community Council and have a seat on the Board. The other Board member should be elected by the Community Council. 	<p>Noted. Again, the constitution of the current Council is included in our Articles so we will consult with Council and we will need the support of member clubs to implement this. The Articles post-EGM March 2023 provide Board with the ability to appoint six additional Council Members, the intention being that this would broaden the base of representation. The Articles do not specify who these need to be, so there is discretion for the Board. There would need to a change in the Articles to reduce the number of Council Members.</p> <p>We will consult with clubs and council on these proposals whilst understanding in more detail the concerns from the Independent Review to develop a plan.</p>	To be discussed – 31 December 2025	Initial consultation with clubs prior to 2024 AGM in November and will be discussed at the AGM.
	We recommend above that the Board should approve and maintain the strategy for all areas of the game, including the community game. The Community Council should be a representative, not a management, body and should not direct management or set strategies or budgets.	Noted. The Board does have responsibility for all aspects of the game. We will consult with clubs and council on these proposals whilst understanding in more detail the concerns from the Independent Review to develop a plan.	To be discussed – 31 December 2025	Council plan to be discussed and developed.

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
	Membership of the Community Council should involve at least induction training on representing the WRU, its inclusion and diversity policies, its current strategic plans and their implementation.	We agree. We commit to ensuring that Council Members receive thorough induction training relevant to their role and representing the WRU. We will use the recommendations in this report to improve the induction programme.	31 March 2024	Induction programme has been implemented, with all new Council Members having received an induction. Feedback on induction programme has been requested from Council Members. Induction programme will be reviewed and refreshed, taking into account feedback received. Additional training opportunities to also be identified.
4 Take steps to become more transparent	a. Draw up a transparency policy setting out when the WRU will give information to the public, the rugby community and employees based on the principle of sharing as much as possible. The primary reasons for withholding information should be (i) competitor knowledge; and (ii) legal obligations.	We agree. Over the next 6 months the WRU will engage with other bodies and institutions to establish best practice in this area and bring a policy, statement or framework proposal forward to the Board.	30 June 2024	Transparency statement has been drafted to be proposed to Board for approval at June Board meeting prior to publication.
	b. Publish the privileges associated with membership of the Board and Council, and for senior staff (distinct from, for example, attending matches as a host in a working role). The grounds for reduction or removal should also be set out.	We agree. A review of this will be carried out and published shortly for transparency.	31 January 2024	Privileges published in February 2024.
	c. When terminating employment, the WRU should only use non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) for an express purpose, not as a matter of course. This does not preclude the use of confidentiality clauses about the terms of a settlement agreement.	We agree. Settlement Agreements will continue to be used only on a case-by-case basis and not as a matter of course.	Immediate – 14 January	
	d. When reports are commissioned about general matters (rather than specific employees) they should be published unless there is a particular and agreed reason not to do so. If publication is not appropriate, the authors should be asked to write a brief summary of the issues, and their conclusions, for publication. The WRU would have been in a better place at the start of 2023 had it been known that it had commissioned reports into women's national rugby, governance, and equality, diversity and inclusion which recommended significant change.	We agree that where appropriate either a summary disclosure or full disclosure of any report commissioned should be shared. This is something we will also consider within the recommendation regarding a transparency policy (as per recommendation 4(a)).	Immediate – 14 January	
	Debate about the organisation and funding of Welsh rugby should be actively encouraged and the WRU should seek to share information to engage people's productive participation in a structured, not speculative, way. Underlying this is greater acceptance of constructive criticism with a view to improvement. A number of people commented on the WRU seeking to control the rugby environment too much.	We agree and consider this a part of the strategy process that has just commenced.	30 June 2024	

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



	Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
5	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion	Align the WRU clearly and publicly with inclusion and diversity, demonstrating visible and vocal leadership on equality, diversity and inclusion. The WRU's commitment to inclusion and its opposition to abusive behaviour, exclusion and discrimination need to be unambiguous.	We commit to doing this authentically and openly.	30 June 2024	A review and update of our commitments on our WRU and Gamelocker websites will be undertaken and in place by 30 June 2024. This will include our internal intranet.
		a. Amend the WRU's statement of values to include one related to diversity and inclusion.	A values review will be a part of the strategy exercise and we will prioritise the identification and roll out of our values as a part of the output of the strategy.	Revised to 30 September 2024	Values review not progressing at intended speed. Likely this will now follow publication of strategy. Target date to be revised to 30 September 2024.
		b. Give greater publicity to women's rugby and rugby for people with disabilities.	Our EDI plan is aligned with this, we agree we need to invest more into this area.	30 Sept 2024	Publicity (comms, brand, marketing) plan – from the strategy work. In the short term, a women's and girls conference was arranged for 26/27 April 2024, targeted marketing campaigns to be agreed and delivered, training for our players to enable them to self promote on social media and the WRU will showcase our players as role models.
		c. Respond robustly to discrimination and hate crime in stadia and online.	In line with our zero tolerance approach to discrimination, we agree that we need to improve our reporting mechanisms and ensure our process for dealing with reports is efficient and effective. We will further improve on the Principality Stadium reporting system by regularly publicising anti-racism and discrimination messages on the concourses and stadium TV systems and emphasise the need to report this type of behaviour to Principality Stadium personnel on event days.	31 March 2024	Review current approach - ensure collaboration across the organisation. Publish what we are doing. Instadia: Anti-racism and discrimination messages are regularly displayed throughout the stadium for all events, encouraging spectators to report any incidents immediately to stadium personnel. Online: Constant moderation of Union social feeds to report abuse and block offending parties. Gradual integration with the Arwen AI platform to automate the process through our partnership with Six Nations Rugby Limited.
		d. Express clearly and publicly the WRU's commitment to the inclusion of all members of Welsh society both in rugby and in its own staff group	We will make our clear and unambiguous statement public as a part of our strategy.	30 June 2024	Part of Strategy. Review what other organisations do.
		e. Have a clear equality, diversity and inclusion strategy underpinned by a delivery plan.	The WRU's EDI policy has been revisited over recent months and approved by the Board. Women's rugby is at the heart of this document. We agree that we need to work harder and move more quickly on our Inclusion delivery plan. We will develop a clear EDI delivery plan to underpin our strategy.	30 June 2024 for EDI Plan – in line with strategy 30 September for EDI Delivery Plan	EDI Plan will be reviewed in line with WRU strategy. The delivery plan will then enable the overarching strategy and be in place by 30 September 2024.
		f. Work collaboratively with the EHRC, should the EHRC take any steps in relation to WRU.	We commit to working with the EHRC.	TBC once initial scope and process is agreed with EHRC.	Engagement with the EHRC continues.

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



	Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
6	<p>Financial support to clubs</p> <p>Reform financial support to clubs with a view to achieving key goals reflecting the WRU's strategy for the community game.</p> <p>These should include all facilities for women and girls (including training and club house facilities), steps to broaden access to rugby for all communities, proper disciplinary policies and procedures in clubs for responding to unacceptable behaviour (including discriminatory behaviour) off the pitch.</p>	<p>We have recently rolled out a suite of services under the heading WRU Dysgu which are learning tools and tips for clubs to make their club houses and facilities welcoming to all sectors of society. How to take appropriate action should unacceptable behaviour be identified or witnessed is an element of this service.</p> <p>Dysgu is a re-education programme where we will be expecting all clubs to have an EDI plan by the end of 2024.</p> <p>A working group has been established to look at how investment is distributed.</p> <p>We have rewritten the payment of players (Integrity Statement) and reviewed our approach and policy in relation to our core grant.</p> <p>A self-assessment tool has been approved for clubs. The club development team will guide clubs in Wales through this process in 2024. Attached to this are supportive tools which will support the discipline procedures to enable clubs to address all behaviour which falls short of acceptable standards.</p> <p>Aim to align all funding to safe, inclusive and compliant clubs across the country.</p> <p>We agree that we need to do more in this space, linking financial support for clubs to our strategic aims around safe, inclusive, welcoming clubhouses. We will need our clubs support to move forward with changes to funding to support our ambitions. We will carry out a review of how we deliver support to our clubs and what the appropriate linking mechanism is as a part of our strategy process.</p>	<p>Already started; quarterly reviews</p> <p>Strategy agreed 30 June 2024</p> <p>Implementation 30 June 2025</p>	<p>This will feature prominently as part of the strategy which will be published in June 2024.</p>	

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
<p>7 Invest in the women's and girls' game:</p>	<p>a. Analyse the expenditure on the women's and girls' game in light of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) income and expenditure of other unions; (ii) growing sponsorship, broadcast revenue and attendances at women's matches; and (iii) the need to invest to develop the game so that funding for women and girls is benchmarked and expressly managed based on data. Spending should be in line with other unions and with spending on men and boys and appropriate to a growth and investment phase. <p>This analysis will require decisions about allocating income (For example how does one allocate general sponsorship? The sponsor will want the exposure from large TV audiences currently obtained by the men's first team. That will affect how much they pay. However sponsors will pay nothing to an organisation the public sees as excluding groups in society.) and expenditure and is not intended to be an exact exercise but to inform decisions. The analysis should include support for the community game as well as player development and national squads.</p>	<p>We have made progress in this area but we know more needs to be done. We commit to the recommendations to support further development. We will look at areas that require investment and ensure we align that with identified sponsorship opportunities. We will review our spending and ensure that it is comparable with other competitors and our own comparable investment in the men's and boys' game, appropriate to growth.</p> <p>Detailed work has been done on establishing a strategy for women's and girls' rugby and this now needs to be integrated into the overall WRU strategy. This will be published by not later than 30 June 24. The appointment of a board member who has expertise in the women's game, Amanda Bennett is a key development. Amanda has played a key part in the development of the strategy to date as a member of the Women's Strategy Group. The WRU has increased its investment in women's rugby considerably over the last two years both in the community and at the top of the performance pyramid. An assessment of our competitors' spend and our own individual needs were central planks to the focus of this additional investment. The WRU's partnership with Vodafone is an excellent example of a targeted approach, regarding sponsorship investment, improving the opportunities available in the girls' and women's game at all levels.</p> <p>Initial professional contracts commenced on 1 January 22 with the total number and the quantum of the contracts increasing for the second round based on what our immediate rivals were paying and the desire to raise performance levels by giving the women's squad coaches greater access to their players. There are currently 31 contracted players with 32 budgeted for. In addition, there are 2 Hybrid contracts with GB7s. For WXV there were also 5 Fixed Term (FT) contracts, and the intention is to have 3 FT contracts for the Six Nations in 2024.</p>	<p>30 June 2024 to publish strategy and an update on all other matters</p>	<p>A Women's and Girls Strategy Group has been established, chaired by Amanda Bennett. It met for the first time on 8 April to critique the work done on the strategy to date and will meet regularly over the coming months.</p>
	<p>b. Keep the salary for professional female players at a level competitive to other careers and other nations and ensure the number of contracts is sufficient to support full national teams.</p>	<p>The level of payment and the number of players contracted will be kept constantly under review to ensure that it is competitive, fair and in line with other careers. It should be noted that the senior squad has risen to 6 in the world rankings over the last two years and that immediately beneath that level Wales will have two teams taking part in the Celtic Challenge with U20 and U18 teams also being established in the past 18 months too.</p>	<p>30 June 2024 – subject to an annual review -</p>	<p>New contracts to be issued in June will see increases across the board.</p>

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
	<p>c. Embed a player pathway for women and girls by completing development of the hubs offering support to players in Wales and by continuing outreach support to players at clubs in other nations. The specific approach might change but the WRU should continue to provide professional staff to support the pathway in women's rugby.</p>	<p>Further down the player pathway 3 player development centres have been established in East Wales, West Wales and in North Wales supported by player hubs. A Women's Pathway Physical Development Lead has been appointed who will oversee, all pathways' programmes and develop a curriculum for the physical development of our female pathway players. This position is seen as critical to the evolution of the Women's Pathway programme and underpins both our performance and injury prevention strategies</p> <p>We will increase investment in our women and girl's pathways going forwards.</p>	<p>30 June 2024 – subject to an annual review</p>	<p>Incomplete until domestic competition in place which is fit for purpose. The Celtic Challenge will continue and discussions are ongoing with various parties regarding future competition formats.</p>
	<p>d. Ensure the women's team has (as a minimum) current levels of support staff and access to sufficient gym time with required equipment. If sharing resources with men, the division of time should be made clear.</p>	<p>The management team which supports the Senior Women's programmes, is consistent with that of our competitors in terms of number, quality and experience of staff. The men's and women's senior team managers meet regularly to discuss utilisation of the NCE facilities. If there are any queries/ issues these are brought to the attention of the PD to ensure performance and equity is at the heart of decision making.</p>	<p>Already in place – report 14 January 2024</p>	<p>Will continue to monitor across all administration support.</p>
	<p>e. Develop a maternity strategy for professional, or soon to be professional, players. This might involve additional funding to cover maternity and advice on return to work.</p>	<p>The maternity policy for our players was included in their contracts issued in January 2023 with all players entitled to the same benefits as other employees of the WRU.</p> <p>We will consult with our women players on the current maternity policy and support and make appropriate adaptations to support their needs where possible.</p>	<p>Already in place</p>	<p>Policy in place. Further consultation underway to see if this can be improved.</p>
<p>8 Continue to improve employment practices</p>	<p>a. Regularly measure staff and player experience, separately considering players, coaching/ managing staff and administrative staff. A range of approaches should be used to include individual interviews and anonymous online surveys.</p>	<p>Players, coaches and support staff have completed two surveys over the past 18 months with year-on-year analysis being monitored. All data is collected anonymously and discussed across a range of groups.</p> <p>We will consult with players to understand how best to feedback on player experience</p> <p>We will consider the use of other approaches in addition to anonymous surveys to gain feedback on employment practices.</p>	<p>Already in place – Review 30 September 2024</p>	<p>Further consultation required. Review as part of Strategy.</p>
	<p>b. Expand appraisals for senior staff to include 360-degree feedback - a structured approach to listening to those at and below their level of management - from people not chosen by the manager. Managers should be helped to a sense of how they are perceived by others.</p>	<p>KPIs for senior staff are currently being used. A Senior Leadership Group (SLG) was introduced in 2023 to improve communication and inter-departmental working throughout the organisation.</p> <p>We will implement 360 appraisals for all Executive and Senior Managers</p>	<p>30 September 2024</p>	<p>A review of our current appraisal process is underway to include 360 feedback.</p>

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
c.	Offer mentoring and reverse mentoring. Each will best be used for limited groups and defined periods given the time commitment of proper mentoring.	We recognise that a new systemic offer needs to be created across the whole WRU.	30 June 2025	
d.	Include as KPIs for senior staff to be assessed in performance reviews (1) co-operation with managers at an equivalent level; (2) breaking down departmental barriers/ 'silos'; (3) adopting a collegiate management style towards junior colleagues.	We will include these as KPIs in the next iteration of our assessment process.	30 September 2024	A review of our current appraisal process is underway to include 360 feedback.
e.	Annual training in equality, diversity and inclusion should take place for all staff. This should be as broad as possible so it is delivered in different ways and different places. There are more engaging approaches than an annual zoom lecture.	Annual training was undertaken in 2021 and modular training offered to Board, Council and Exec in 2022. 2023 has seen EDI training made available to all staff with Show Racism The Red Card responsible for providing the training as part of a Welsh Government scheme. Additional training is planned for next year.	30 September 2024 delivery	Review of EDI training in progress to procure a suite of training to accommodate learning styles. Board training taking place in April 2024 and new online training system has made basic EDI training mandatory to all employees.
f.	Adopt a Speak Up approach, with systems to encourage communication and appoint a member of the executive to implement this and a Board member to oversee communication within the organisation.	We have already implemented our "Have a Voice" campaign led by our Director of People, Lydia Stirling; at Board level this will be overseen by our People, Culture and Governance Committee that is chaired by Alison Thorne.	30 June 2024	Complaints procedure under review to then be communicated.
g.	Designate someone responsible for managing the culture at the National Centre of Excellence. The success criteria should be to make the NCE more inclusive and facilitate frictionless sharing of facilities.	We take note of the comments regarding the NCE and are committed to making the necessary changes to improve the environment to ensure all staff and visitors have the experience they should expect. The Executive Director of Rugby, Nigel Walker, will be charged with improving the culture and will be measured on action taken.	Immediate – Nigel Walker appointed	Representatives for all teams resident at the NCE were brought together on 27 March to discuss the environment we want to create. Principles to be developed in the coming weeks which will be shared and debated and ultimately adopted by all who attend the NCE.
h.	Implement a zero-tolerance approach to language which excludes others from work or sport. By zero tolerance we do not mean that people must always be dismissed for exclusionary language but that it must always be reported, recorded and dealt with according to an express policy. If 'banter' is defined as making a comment which breaks social taboos, and waiting for nervous laughter, staff should be told it is not appropriate for the workplace.	We recognise there is more to do to embed our zero tolerance approach and we are reviewing our policies to make sure that they encourage people to come forward and report any exclusionary language. We will review our policies and statement of intent on EDI to ensure that it is clear of a zero tolerance approach. We will continue annual EDI training. We will continue to find ways to support reporting poor behaviour.	In place and ongoing	A review and update of our commitments on our WRU and Gamelocker websites will be undertaken and in place by 30 June 2024. This will include our internal intranet and our complaints procedure.
i.	Ensure each team manager has as part of their role an objective of listening to concerns and helping communication. The approach is likely to include 360-degree appraisal and communicating to WRU necessary changes to manage stress, relationships, group and personal concerns.	We will embed this in guidance for WRU employees in the next appraisal and development round.	30 September 2024	A review of our current appraisal process is underway to include 360 feedback. Funding is required to provide an efficient process which is under review.

WELSH RUGBY UNION INDEPENDENT REVIEW RESPONSE APRIL 2024



Recommendation summary	Recommendation	Initial WRU Board viewpoint on recommendation	Target date for implementation	Update as at April 24
	j. Arrange for someone independent of the WRU to sit in on final interviews for Board members, the Chair and Chief Executive and any members of the Community Council who are appointed (see above), reporting in writing to the Board on whether the appointment followed good practice and the stated process. This should not be an audit or lead to a detailed report but a simple conclusion.	An independent was part of the appointment panel for all Board (including CEO) appointments made in the last 6 months. We are committed to continue with this practice.	Already in place – 14 January 2024	
9 Disability	Continue to work with disability sports bodies, according to a published strategy.	<p>The WRU has extensive links with a range of disability groups and has attracted major events to the Principality Stadium, such as the European Wheelchair Rugby Championship in 2023.</p> <p>The WRU commits to developing a strategy, in consultation with Sport Wales, to ensure maximum impact in this area.</p> <p>WRU will continue to deliver against the Insport Gold Strategy and support the DSW strategy</p>	30 June 2024 as a part of our strategy	