

BOARD PAPER - NHS ENGLAND

Title: Efficiency controls committee report

Clearance: Paul Baumann: Chief Financial Officer

Purpose of paper:

- Report from the efficiency controls committee (ECC), in accordance with its terms of reference

Key issues and recommendations:

The Committee met six times in the period, approving 36 business cases without conditions and seven with conditions prior to submission to the Department of Health (DH) for onward approval.

Work with DH to streamline approval procedures, and thus ensure an appropriate balance of tight control and responsiveness to need, is continuing.

Actions required by Board Members:

- The Board is asked to note the work of the committee.

Efficiency Controls Committee Report

1. The objective of the committee is to approve expenditure on activities relating to NHS England's functions that are subject to DH and Cabinet Office controls utilising, where appropriate, the delegated financial limits set out in the Standing Financial Instructions for members in attendance (the committee has no delegated budgetary authority of its own).
2. Following the establishment of the finance & investment committee (FIC), the ECC is focused on approval of short term revenue business cases, with FIC scrutinising long term commitments, capital and property related business cases as well as wider issues of financial policy, performance and budgetary control.

The number of cases considered at each meeting, and their outcome is as follows:

Dates	Number Cases on Agenda	Number of Cases Approved	Number of Cases with Conditions	Number of Cases Rejected
05/09/2013	15	10	5	0
12/09/2013	5	4	1	0
19/09/2013	12	11	1	0
26/09/2013	4	3	0	1
03/10/2013	23	4	0	19*
10/10/2013	5	4	0	1
Total	64	36	7	21

*The meeting on 3 October 2013 considered 19 linked business cases from NHS IQ that were deferred pending further clarification which is in train.

Dates	Value of Cases on Agenda	Value of Cases Approved	Value of Cases Conditions	Value of Cases Rejected
05/09/2013	£3,004,151.80	£1,199,358.80	£1,804,793	£0
12/09/2013	£346,371.28	£323,271.28	£23,100	£0
19/09/2013	£777,715.24	£669,935	£107,780.24	£0
26/09/2013	£278,410	£86,410	£0	£192,000
03/10/2013	£2,958,821	£2,151,785	£0	£807,036
10/10/2013	£559,963	£437,988	£0	£121,975
Total	£7,925,432.32	£4,868,748.08	£1,935,673.24	£1,121,011

3. Work is ongoing with the DH to ensure a consistent and efficient application of the controls appropriate to a major Arms Length Body (and specifically the requirements for NHS England, DH, Ministerial and/or Cabinet Office approval). This has shown dividends, with welcome steps to rationalise key processes and approval flows, but at the time of writing we still await written confirmation of the agreed position from DH.

Paul Baumann

Chief Financial Officer

Oct 2013