

23rd May 2019

Fleur Nieboer
Partner
KPMG LLP
15 Canada Square
London
E14 5GL

Building 4
Spencer Close
St Margaret's Hospital
The Plain
EPPING
Essex CM16 6TN
Tel: 01992 566140

Dear Fleur

This representation letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of NHS West Essex Clinical Commissioning Group ("the CCG"), for the year ended 31 March 2019, for the purpose of expressing an opinion:

- as to whether these financial statements give a true and fair view of the state of the financial position of the CCG as at 31 March 2019 and of the net operating expenditure for the financial year then ended; and;
- whether the CCG's financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies directed by NHS England with consent of the Secretary of State as relevant to Clinical Commissioning Groups in England and the Department of Health and Social Care Group Accounting Manual (GAM).

These financial statements comprise the Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Net Expenditure, the Statement of Cash Flows, the Statement of Changes in Taxpayers Equity and notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes.

The Governing Body confirms that the representations it makes in this letter are in accordance with the definitions set out in the Appendix to this letter.

The Governing Body confirms that, to the best of its knowledge and belief, having made such inquiries as it considered necessary for the purpose of appropriately informing itself:

Financial statements

1. The Governing Body has fulfilled its responsibilities for the preparation of financial statements that:
 - i. give a true and fair view of the financial position of the CCG as at 31 March 2019 and of the net operating expenditure for that financial year; and
 - ii. have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies directed by NHS England with consent of the Secretary of State as relevant to Clinical Commissioning Groups in England and the GAM 2018/19.

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.
2. Measurement methods and significant assumptions used by the Governing Body in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.
3. All events subsequent to the date of the financial statements, and for which IAS 10 events after the reporting period requiring adjustment or disclosure, have been adjusted or disclosed.
4. The effects of uncorrected misstatements are immaterial, both individually and in aggregate, to the financial statements as a whole. There are no uncorrected adjustments above £300k following audit of the 2018/19 financial statements.

Dr Rob Gerlis, Chair
Andrew Geldard, Chief Officer

Information provided

5. The Governing Body has provided you with:

- access to all information of which it is aware, that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements, such as records, documentation and other matters;
- additional information that you have requested from the Governing Body for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to persons within the CCG from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.

6. All transactions have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

7. The Governing Body confirms the following:

- i. The Governing Body has disclosed to you the results of its assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.

Included in the Appendix to this letter are the definition of fraud, including misstatement arising from fraudulent financial reporting and from misappropriation of assets.

- ii. The Governing Body has disclosed to you all information in relation to:

a) Fraud or suspected fraud that it is aware of and that affects the CCG and involves:

- management;
- employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
- others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements; and

b) allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the CCG's financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, analysts, regulators or others.

In respect of the above, the Governing Body acknowledges its responsibility for such internal control as it determines necessary for the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In particular, the Governing Body acknowledges its responsibility for the design, implementation and maintenance of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

8. The Governing Body has disclosed to you all known instances of non-compliance or suspected non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements. The Governing Body also confirms that, in all material respects, the expenditure and income recognised in the financial statements has been applied to purposes intended by Parliament and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

9. The Governing Body has disclosed to you and has appropriately accounted for and/or disclosed in the financial statements, in accordance with IAS 37 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets, all known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.

10. The Governing Body has disclosed to you the identity of the CCG's related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which it is aware. All related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed in accordance with IAS 24 Related Party Disclosures. Included in the Appendix to this letter are the definitions of both a related party and a related party transaction as we understand them and as defined in IAS 24.

11. The Governing Body confirms that all intra-NHS balances included in the Statement of Financial Position (SOFP) at 31 March 2019 in excess of £100,000 have been disclosed to you and that the CCG has complied with the requirements of the Intra NHS Agreement of Balances Exercise. The Governing Body confirms that Intra-NHS balances includes all balances with NHS counterparties, regardless of whether these balances are reported within those SOFP classifications formally deemed to be included within the Agreement of Balances exercise.

12. The Governing Body confirms that:

- a) The financial statements disclose all of the key risk factors, assumptions made and uncertainties surrounding the CCG's ability to continue as a going concern as required to provide a true and fair view. No events or conditions have been identified that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the CCG to continue as a going concern.
- b) Any uncertainties disclosed are not considered to be material and therefore do not cast significant doubt on the ability of the CCG to continue as a going concern.

13. The Governing Body has assessed the impact of new accounting standards (IFRS 9 and 15) and confirms the impact of these new standards does not have a material effect on the financial statements.

This letter was tabled and agreed at the meeting of the Governing Body on 23rd May 2019.

Yours sincerely

John Leslie
Interim Director of Finance, Contracting & Performance
for and on behalf of the Governing Body of NHS West Essex CCG

Appendix to the Governing Body Representation Letter: Definitions

Financial Statements

IAS 1.10 states that a complete set of financial statements comprises:

- a statement of financial position as at the end of the period;
- a statement of comprehensive income for the period;
- a statement of changes in equity for the period;
- a statement of cash flows for the period;
- notes, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information;
- comparative information in respect of the previous period; and
- a statement of financial position as at the beginning of the earliest comparative period when an entity applies an accounting policy retrospectively or makes a retrospective restatement of items in its financial statements, or when it reclassifies items in its financial statements.

Material Matters

Certain representations in this letter are described as being limited to matters that are material.

IAS 1.7 and IAS 8.5 state that:

“Material omissions or misstatements of items are material if they could, individually or collectively, influence the economic decisions that users make on the basis of the financial statements. Materiality depends on the size and nature of the omission or misstatement judged in the surrounding circumstances. The size or nature of the item, or a combination of both, could be the determining factor.”

Fraud

Fraudulent financial reporting involves intentional misstatements including omissions of amounts or disclosures in financial statements to deceive financial statement users.

Misappropriation of assets involves the theft of an entity's assets. It is often accompanied by false or misleading records or documents in order to conceal the fact that the assets are missing or have been pledged without proper authorisation.

Error

An error is an unintentional misstatement in financial statements, including the omission of an amount or a disclosure.

Prior period errors are omissions from, and misstatements in, the entity's financial statements for one or more prior periods arising from a failure to use, or misuse of, reliable information that:

- a) was available when financial statements for those periods were authorised for issue; and
- b) could reasonably be expected to have been obtained and taken into account in the preparation and presentation of those financial statements.

Such errors include the effects of mathematical mistakes, mistakes in applying accounting policies, oversights or misinterpretations of facts, and fraud.

Management

For the purposes of this letter, references to “management” should be read as “management and, where appropriate, those charged with governance”.

Related parties

A related party is a person or entity that is related to the entity that is preparing its financial statements (referred to in IAS 24 *Related Party Disclosures* as the “reporting entity”).

- a) A person or a close member of that person’s family is related to a reporting entity if that person:
 - i. has control or joint control over the reporting entity;
 - ii. has significant influence over the reporting entity; or
 - iii. is a member of the key management personnel of the reporting entity or of a parent of the reporting entity.
- b) An entity is related to a reporting entity if any of the following conditions applies:
 - i. The entity and the reporting entity are members of the same group (which means that each parent, subsidiary and fellow subsidiary is related to the others).
 - ii. One entity is an associate or joint venture of the other entity (or an associate or joint venture of a member of a group of which the other entity is a member).
 - iii. Both entities are joint ventures of the same third party.
 - iv. One entity is a joint venture of a third entity and the other entity is an associate of the third entity.
 - v. The entity is a post-employment benefit plan for the benefit of employees of either the reporting entity or an entity related to the reporting entity. If the reporting entity is itself such a plan, the sponsoring employers are also related to the reporting entity.
 - vi. The entity is controlled, or jointly controlled by a person identified in (a).
 - vii. A person identified in (a)(i) has significant influence over the entity or is a member of the key management personnel of the entity (or of a parent of the entity).

Related party transaction

A transfer of resources, services or obligations between a reporting entity and a related party, regardless of whether a price is charged.