

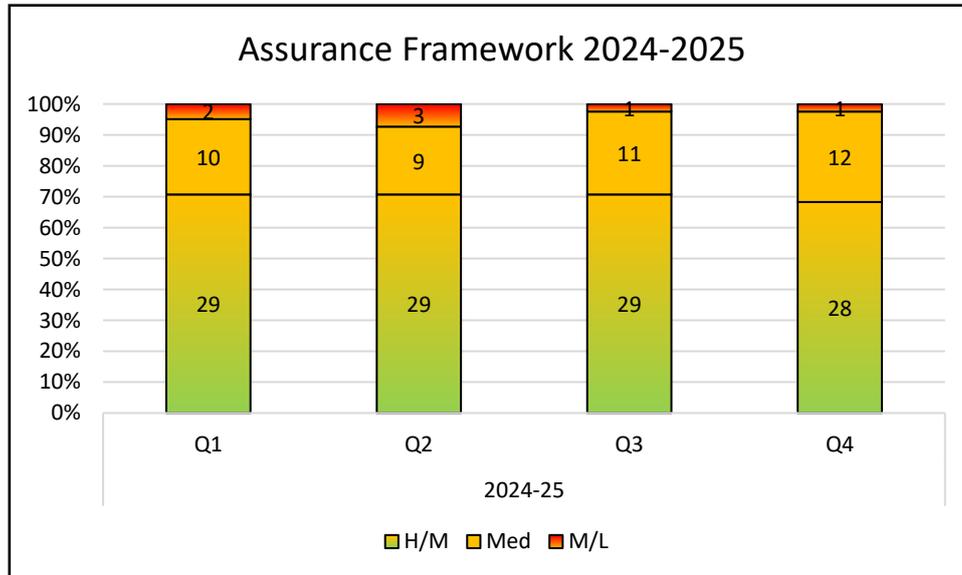
Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Meeting Date	11 June 2025
Title	Unified assurance annual summary 2024-25
Author(s)	Anna Raftery, Head of Assurance and Compliance
Executive Sponsor	Claire Amor, Executive Director of Corporate Affairs
Executive Summary	
<p>This is a public overview of the unified assurance framework for 2024-25. The full paper, including a breakdown by function and details of the three lines of assurance will be considered during the private session.</p>	
Action required	The Committee is asked to review the information provided and seek clarification on any areas.
Previous consideration	<p>The Committee receives a quarterly report in the private session of each Committee meeting.</p> <p>The last annual public summary was submitted to the Committee in June 2024.</p>
Next steps	<p>The next private report will be submitted to the private session of the Committee meeting in September 2025.</p> <p>The next annual public summary will be submitted to the Committee in June 2026.</p>
Financial and resource implications	None as a result of this paper
Associated strategic priority/priorities	<p>Continuously improve and innovate</p> <p>Build a resilient, healthy, capable and sustainable organisation</p>
Associated strategic risk(s)	All

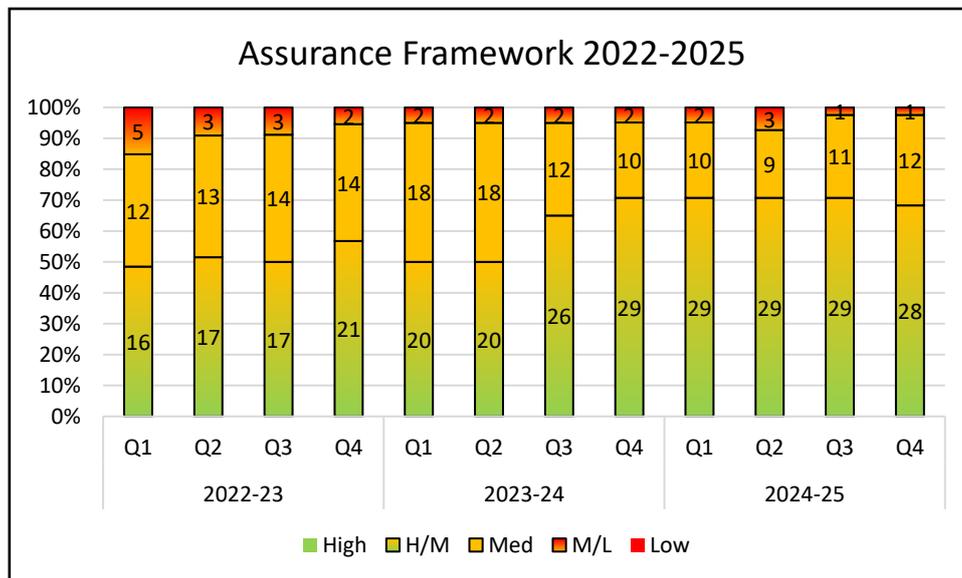
Risk appetite	Compliance - measured
Communication and engagement	None as a result of this paper.
Equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) impact and Welsh language standards	The assurance framework includes the assurance of HCPC EDI as related to regulatory and business practices.
Other impact assessments	The assurance framework includes the assurance of HCPC data and sustainability as related to regulatory and business practices.
Reason for consideration in the private session of the meeting (if applicable)	Not applicable

1. 2024-25 Unified Assurance Framework

- 1.1. This report aims to give an annual account of the assurance activity taking place within the HCPC. Each function is reviewed following quarterly risk and assurance meetings to reflect the most current and accurate assurance rating.
- 1.2. At the end of the third year of the unified assurance framework we have continued to develop a robust culture of risk and assurance understanding.



- 1.3. At the end of the third year of the assurance framework we can see the stability of the improvement delivered providing us with assurance.



- 1.4. One area remains of significant concern with a **Medium/Low** assurance rating, following escalation in quarter 3. Business discussions are underway as to the most appropriate way to address this ongoing issue. Close monitoring is in place as an additional control.

- 1.5. Of the functions that still have **Medium** assurance, a small number have not seen any change in assurance rating over the last year. Though many of these areas have made improvements, the assurance rating may not have changed for a few reasons, such as:
- Impact not yet realised
 - Setbacks or delays to delivery of improvements
 - Outside factors such as loss of resource in key areas
- 1.6. These will be of specific focus for the assurance framework for the next year and will be supported plans such as the environmental sustainability strategy, and review of the approach to corporate feedback and complaints.
- 1.7. In 2024-25 the overall assurance rating has steadily remained at **High/Medium**.
- 1.8. Now we have the approach established for three years, a full review of the assurance map and framework is in the 2025-26 work plan.