
Unified assurance annual summary 2023-24

Executive Summary

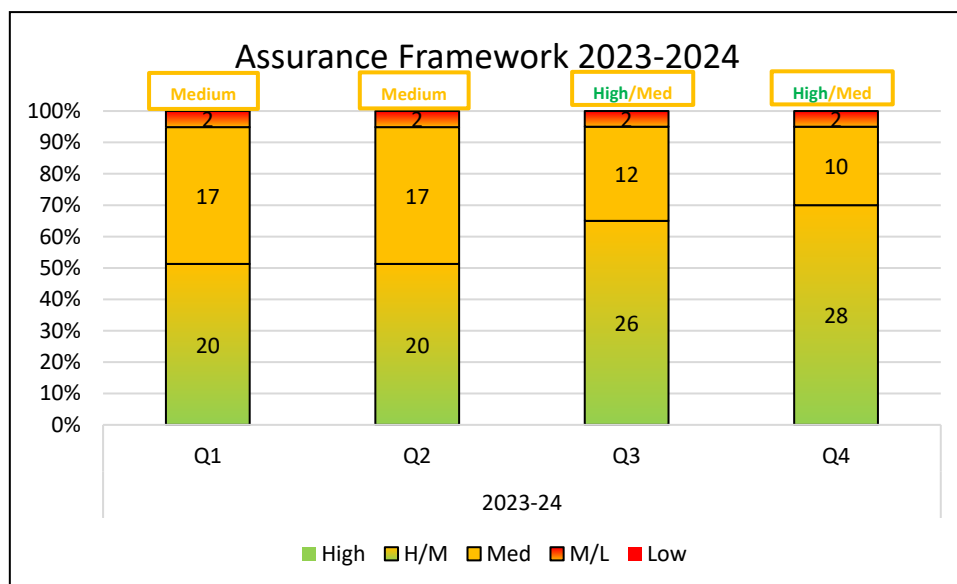
This report provides a public overview of the Unified Assurance Framework for 2023-24. A full report including a breakdown by function and details of the three lines of assurance will be submitted to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee (ARAC)'s private session.

Previous consideration	The full Unified Assurance Framework is reported to the private session of the ARAC each quarter.
Decision	The Committee is asked to discuss the report.
Next steps	Full quarterly reports will continue to be provided to the ARAC (private session)
Strategic priority	Strategic priority 1 – Continuously improve and innovate Strategic priority 5 – Build a resilient, healthy, capable and sustainable organisation
Financial and resource implications	None as a result of this paper.
EDI and Welsh language standards	The Unified Assurance Framework includes an assessment of both strategic and corporate EDI functions.
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1. Unified Assurance annual summary 2023-24

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 second year of the Unified Assurance Framework we have continued to develop a robust culture of risk and assurance understanding.



1.3. Two areas remain of significant concern with a **Medium/Low** assurance rating, which has not changed over the year. However significant work has been undertaken and is ongoing in these areas. Due to the scope of the improvements required, time is needed to see the impacts of these improvements. Close monitoring is in place for these areas as an additional control.

1.4. We have seen the delivery of a significant number of improvements across all areas of the organisation, which is reflected in the increased assurance rating in these functions and in the overall assurance rating.

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; and
- 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 the review of the approach to corporate feedback and complaints.

1.7. At the end of 2023-24 the overall assurance rating has improved from **Medium** to **High/Medium**.