

# Enhancing the Research Needs-Based Decision Framework

## Introduction

In 2020, Health and Care Research Wales introduced a needs-based funding model to distribute the research delivery funding provided to NHS organisations by Welsh Government.

The needs-based funding model is provided based on the in-year resource needs of delivering the non-commercial portfolio research studies and funding is directed to where and when those resources are needed and to where and when those costs are incurred.

Requests for funding were based on a broad level decision framework. Broadly, the scope included all non-commercial studies on the UK Clinical Research Portfolio and did not include any prioritisation.



## The Task and Finish group



Due to the board nature of the decision framework & cost pressures on the delivery funding, a Task and Finish (T&F) group was developed with an aim to make recommendations as to how the decision framework could be enhanced.

The Group included a cross-section of individuals from across the Health and Care Research Wales infrastructure. The objectives of the Group were to provide input into the further development of the needs-based funding decision framework and consider this in a context of a finite budget.

## Conclusion

The Group concluded that there are too many factors that influence the decision making of needs-based requests to be able to apply a study type related priority approach (local as well as UK priorities).

To enhance the needs-based decision framework, the Group agreed organisational performance criteria should be used to help determine access to research delivery funding.

The use of performance data aligns to the ambition of Wales achieving at least 80% Recruitment Time to Target (RTT) for the delivery of studies on the portfolio.

Enhanced decision framework.  
Step 3 is being implemented  
from the 1 April 2023.

