

NHS Supply Chain National Advisory Board - Key Messages October 2025

Feedback and Escalations from the Regions

- Regional updates highlighted consistent themes across the country. In the North, reporting accuracy and the value of the Resilience Forum were key points, alongside discussion on debt. The Midlands emphasised the need for clearer communication around savings and price increases, with support for aligning financial planning and performance metrics. The South reported good progress on savings and welcomed dashboard escalation, while the East of England and London echoed similar priorities, with strong support for the Performance Metrics work as a key driver of regional efforts.

Key Updates

- NHS Supply Chain has received Government approval to begin a major modernisation programme, investing in IT and logistics to better serve the NHS and deliver £1bn in recurring value by 2030.
- There is a commitment to improving communication earlier in the framework renewal process, particularly when frameworks are launching under cost pressures.
- A deep dive is underway with an additional layer of scrutiny being introduced during target setting. The commercial team are then working to build greater transparency into next year's target-setting process for trusts. This includes clearly showing savings, cost pressures, and the net effect, providing upfront visibility to support better planning.
- NHS Supply Chain are conducting a targeted audit of the savings reporting and working with NHSE to define a unified savings methodology. The audit will focus on validating the methodologies used, identifying and explaining key variances, and understanding the root causes of misalignment. This work is scheduled to conclude by March 2026.
- Following escalation from the Regional Advisory Forums, Adrian Stobie presented the Performance Metrics Dashboard to the National Board and secured support, along with resource from the Customer Data Team to continue the work. To keep this collaborative, we're now seeking volunteers to support and advise Adrian, ensuring the workload is shared as the project progresses.