



Risk Appetite Matrix 2024/25

Optimal Risk Position = the level of risk with which we aim to operate.

Tolerable Risk Position = the level of risk with which we are willing to operate.

Our risk appetite position for risks which present threats and opportunities to achieving our objectives is summarised by risk category and principal objective in the following matrix:

Risk category and link to principal objective	Threat		Opportunity	
	Optimal	Tolerable	Optimal	Tolerable
Safety, quality of services and patient experience	≤ 3 Minimal	4 - 6 Minimal	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious
Data and information management	≤ 3 Minimal	4 - 6 Minimal	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious
Governance and regulatory standards	≤ 3 Minimal	4 - 6 Minimal	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious
Staff capacity and capability	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 8 Open	≤ 12 Open
Staff experience	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 15 Eager	≤ 15 Eager
Staff wellbeing	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 15 Eager	≤ 15 Eager
Estates management	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 8 Open	≤ 12 Open
Financial Duties	≤ 3 Minimal	4 - 6 Minimal	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious
Performance Targets	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 8 Open	≤ 12 Open
Hospital Demand, Capacity and Flow	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 8 Open	≤ 12 Open
Sustainability / Net Zero	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 8 Open	≤ 12 Open
Technology	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 8 Open	≤ 12 Open
Adverse publicity	≤ 3 Minimal	4 - 6 Minimal	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious
Contracts and demands	≤ 3 Minimal	4 - 6 Minimal	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious
Strategy	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 8 Open	≤ 12 Open
Transformation	≤ 6 Cautious	8 - 10 Cautious	≤ 15 Eager	≤ 15 Eager

Please use the scoring in the above risk matrix as a guide when assessing whether sufficient control measures and assurances are in place to accept a risk.

For further information contact: risk.management@wwl.nhs.uk