

Adrian Crompton
Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office
By Email

13 May 2024

Dear Adrian,

Membership of the Wales Audit Office Board

I notified you on 15 April 2024 that Kathryn Chamberlain was disqualified as a member and as Chair of the Wales Audit Office Board, in light of her undertaking a role from 1 January 2024 which was a disqualifying office, in accordance with Paragraph 26 of Schedule 1 to the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013.

As mentioned at the time, I found this to be a deeply regrettable situation and I was extremely disappointed that Kathryn Chamberlain's tenure had ended prematurely.

I am sure we would both wish to ensure that this situation is not repeated. As a Committee we have discussed steps to mitigate the risk and would request that the following proactive steps are taken by Audit Wales.

We note that members of the WAO Board regularly publish a notice of their interests on the Audit Wales website, which includes any additional commitments and remunerated roles undertaken. We are encouraged by this approach, however, as an additional safeguard we ask that any updates made to the registers of Non-Executive Members (NE Members) of the Board are shared with the Clerk of the Finance Committee. Whilst the onus remains with the individual to inform the Finance Committee in accordance with their terms and conditions, this approach will ensure any concerns regarding the commitments of NE Members are brought to the attention of the Committee

The Committee also asks for changes to be made to the induction and training programmes for NE Members, so that they are reminded of the requirements involved when undertaking new roles.

You will appreciate that it is in both our interests to ensure that the membership of the WAO Board is stable and that the reputation and integrity of the WAO's governance arrangements are protected and beyond reproach.

I would like to assure you that the Committee is also taking action in this area, and I have written to the current NE Members reminding them of the legal provisions relating to their appointment, and the requirements in their terms and conditions around informing the Committee of any changes to existing commitments. I have also made it clear that they may seek the advice of the Committee before undertaking additional roles.

I will also continue to provide clear guidance to prospective candidates on eligibility as part of future WAO recruitment campaigns, as well as carrying out thorough due diligence checks prior to appointments being made.

I hope we can work collaboratively on these issues.

Should you require any clarification or further information, please contact my lead official: Owain Roberts, Committee Clerk, 0300 200 6388, SeneddFinance@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

