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Dear Mark

## Audit Wales Work Programme

I am mindful that the Committee is fast approaching the final months of its work during the sixth Senedd and has limited Committee time left. Meanwhile, I am also approaching the end of my own tenure as Auditor General. I thought, therefore, that it would be helpful at this point to provide an update on some of my future reporting plans and other work in progress, although what I have set out below does not cover the full breadth of our audit work programme.

Over the next few months, I am expecting us to complete work on:

- **Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs):** This work has examined Natural Resources Wales's approach to designating SSSIs and has some relevance to wider challenges the organisation has been facing.
- **Challenges for the culture sector:** This work considered whether public bodies in the culture sector have appropriate arrangements to secure financial sustainability over the short and longer term, in line with their well-being objectives. It is work we took forward in the context of my duties under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015. Reports on the [National Library of Wales](#), the [Arts Council of Wales](#), and [Sport Wales](#) are already available on our website. Our work at Amgueddfa Cymru ran to a different timetable but is now close to being finalised.

- **The new Velindre Cancer Centre:** We shared a draft report with Velindre University NHS Trust and the Welsh Government for comment at the end of August. Once we have considered their comments and engaged with relevant third parties then we will start our publishing process.
- **Urgent and emergency NHS care:** We have had a significant programme of local audit work on this topic across two different but connected phases. We have already published various local and regional reports which have attracted certain media coverage. We are planning to draw together some national messages from this work, including highlighting opportunities for financial savings / productivity gains.
- **NHS planned care waiting lists:** Again, we have already published some local audit reports on this topic and are preparing a national summary.
- **NHS GP registrations:** We are preparing a short report summarising findings from a data matching pilot, following on from work we completed on community pharmacy in 2024. We are also planning to publish a short update article on developments since that community pharmacy report.
- **Rebalancing care:** This work is examining whether the Welsh Government, in conjunction with Regional Partnership Boards, has adequately addressed recommendations from my [2019 report on the Integrated Care Fund](#) through the rollout of its Regional Integration Fund.
- **Councils' arrangements for commissioning services:** We have completed local audit work on this topic across the 22 principal councils and are preparing a summary output.
- **Capital planning in local government:** Considering whether councils' arrangements are supporting them to sustainably deliver value for money, this work has included a focus on roads and adult social care assets.

There is a rich body of other national study work in progress at different stages. I would not currently expect much, if any, of this to be completed in sufficient time for it to support any detailed scrutiny before dissolution of the Senedd. It will, however, provide a body of evidence that future committees can build on. It includes work on the sustainable communities for learning (school and college buildings) programme, public bodies' support for children and young people with additional learning needs, the Welsh Government's business support through the Economy Futures Fund, and local authority children's services.

In addition, we have recently confirmed plans for a project examining Medr's oversight of the financial sustainability of higher and further education institutions, we are drawing together our plans for a review of the Core Valleys Line rail improvement programme, and we intend to publish a short article on developments around affordable housing during this winter. Of relevance to issues we have discussed previously with the Committee, I would also draw to your attention work that we intend to progress shortly that will consider issues relating to local government funding and that we anticipate will include some coverage of the funding formula.

There is then other local audit work in our programme that might generate national summary outputs further downstream – including work on digital transformation and estates management issues in the NHS, and on workforce issues in local government – as well as other follow up work. Finally, I am also drawing together some reflections that I will be sharing on public finance, governance and service delivery challenges as I look back over my time as Auditor General.

I would, of course, be happy to discuss any of the above in more detail with the Committee. As ever, I would also welcome any thoughts the Committee might have on potential future topics for my work programme as we begin our planning process for 2026-27. We will likely look to retain some additional flexibility in that work programme as my successor takes up post and as a new Committee considers its own areas of interest and concern.

Yours sincerely



**ADRIAN CROMPTON**  
**Auditor General for Wales**