

## Manon Antoniazzi

Prif Weithredwr a Chlerc y Senedd  
Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd

23 October 2025

Mark Isherwood MS  
Chair of Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Tŷ Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

Dear Mark,

### **Scrutiny of annual report and accounts 2024-25**

I am writing to provide you with the further information that we promised in the course of Committee questioning on 2nd October.

#### **Cyber Security Note**

Please see Annex 1

#### **Expenditure on third parties such as specialist consultants for 2024-25**

The Commission engages with specialist consultants and project partners where the skills and expertise do not exist in-house.

During 2024-25, the timetable for the Bay 32 project had significant delivery milestones and deadlines which, in turn, required significant input from external specialist consultants. The majority of spend on the Bay 32 project was for such specialist consultants.

The project is relatively unusual, given that the Commission does not own either the asset nor the land and does not have its own funding stream. The other significant driver of complexity is the nature of the project itself – a large accommodation block, that must integrate with the Senedd Building, serve a wide array of users and purposes, with bespoke security and broadcasting needs. Given the limited market, and the complexity of the requirements, the Commission has utilised professional advisers to reduce risk and to deliver high levels of assurance for the Parliament, the Government and the people of Wales.

The skills and expertise that has been procured includes:

- Commercial advice (given the need to keep the limited market in a competition, to evidence VfM)
- Cost consultancy



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- Architectural services
- Mechanical and Engineering services
- Business case development, including sophisticated cost and options appraisal analysis in-line with the Green Book including optimism bias analysis, sensitivity analysis, complex commercial structure modelling etc
- Legal advice (specialist estate development agreement advice which we do not keep in-house)

The Commission largely procures these services from its existing contracts which have gone through a competitive procurement process themselves (either through us or through a framework).

Other than Bay 32, there are some other, limited areas where we have to engage on a more regular basis:

- valuation of the estate on an annual basis as part of the preparation of our accounts,
- feasibility studies for estate works (such works are usually procured through our facilities management partner CBRE who will apply the appropriate procurement methodology e.g. obtaining three quotes)
- support with the delivery of projects, for example the Payroll software replacement.

Expenditure on consultancy for the past 3 financial years was as follows:

	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>
	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>	<b>£000</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£155</b>	<b>£173</b>	<b>£915</b>

The majority of spend in 2024-25 (£650k) was in relation to the Bay 32 project with a further £135k spent on the project to reconfigure the Siamb, another complex and important project.

I understand that Members also wanted to know whether we had published data on sickness days split by department. We do have this information but do not publish it. It is used internally by HR and Heads of Service to proactively assess sickness absence level and trends to identify any interventions which may be required to effectively manage sickness absence.

We would like to thank the Committee for its scrutiny. The Commission's approach is always to try to operate with openness, transparency, and clarity. If there is anything else that we can provide you with to assist the Committee, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Yours sincerely,



*Manon Antoniazzi*

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

