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Mr Tom Jackson
Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Reference	AJB448/bd
Date	03 July 2013
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Dear Tom

Caldicot & Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage Board.

I understand that you have raised a query with my colleague Matt Mortlock over my comments in oral evidence to the Public Accounts Committee on 11 June about when I became aware that my report in the public interest was largely being paid for by the Welsh Government.

I first became aware that the Welsh Government had provided £100,000 to the drainage board as a contribution to funding the costs of the report in the public interest on 16 May 2013, when Ms Jo Lerner, acting head of flood and coastal erosion risk management at the Welsh Government, gave oral evidence on this point to the Public Accounts Committee.

No member of my team had previously made me aware that this was the case and indeed there was no reason why they should have done so. It was not pertinent to my consideration of the issues at the drainage board or to my decision to issue the report in the public interest. Neither had I seen the minutes of the 21 May 2012 Board meeting.

The Wales Audit Office issued three invoices to the drainage board for the additional audit work which resulted in the preparation and publication of my report in the public interest:

Invoice Date	Amount (£)	Payment Date
15/12/2011	40,000.00	27/01/2012
03/02/2012	30,000.00	23/03/2012
30/01/2013	45,432.40	20/03/2013
Total	115,432.40	

Please let me know if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely



Anthony Barrett
Assistant Auditor General