

Public Accounts Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 3 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 31 January 2012**

Meeting time: **09: – 11:00**

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Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Darren Millar (Chair)
Mohammad Asghar
Mike Hedges
Julie Morgan
Gwyn Price
Jenny Rathbone
Aled Roberts
Leanne Wood

Witnesses:

Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales, Wales Audit Office
Paul Dimplebee, Group Director – Performance Audit, WAO
Gillian Body, Assistant Auditor General, Wales Audit Office
Mike Usher, Group Director – Financial Audit, WAO
Hearty, Director General for Strategic Planning, Finance & Performance
Dame Gillian Morgan, Permanent Secretary, Welsh Government
Arwel Thomas, Head of Corporate Governance

Committee Staff:

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

- 1 The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public to the meeting.

2. Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

Items 3 and 4

3. Appointment of auditors to the accounts of the Auditor General for Wales

3.1 The Committee approved the recommendation to appoint auditors of the account of the Auditor General for Wales. A motion for the Assembly to appoint the auditors will be tabled.

4. Delivery of ICT services and ICT projects under the Merlin contract

4.1 The Committee discussed its handling of the Wales Audit Office report *Delivery of ICT services and ICT projects under the Merlin contract*.

5. Consideration of the Wales Audit Office's programme of value for money studies

5.1 The Committee welcomed Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales and Gillian Body, Managing partner, Wales Audit Office

5.2 The Committee discussed the Wales Audit Office's programme of value for money studies.

Action Points:

The Wales Audit office agreed to provide:

- Further details on local audit work and other activity being carried out by the Wales Audit Office, which would not usually be brought to the Committee for its consideration.
- Further information on the timeline of the Wales Audit Office review of the Wales and Borders rail franchise and how it has coordinated timings with the Welsh Government.

6. Grants Management in Wales – Evidence from the Welsh Government

6.1 The Committee welcomed Dame Gillian Morgan, Permanent Secretary; Michael Hearty, Director General – Strategic Planning, Finance and Performance; and Arwel Thomas, Head of Corporate Governance and Assurance.

6.2 The Committee questioned the witnesses.

Action Point:

The Welsh Government agreed to provide:

- An update on the investigation into AWEMA and further details on the measures taken by the Welsh Government to ensure that services provided by AWEMA will be maintained.

7. Papers to note

7.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of its previous meeting.