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Public Accounts Committee

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

Meeting date: **Monday, 24 September 2012**

Meeting time: **14:00 – 16:55**

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_400000_24_09_2012&t=0&l=en

Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Darren Millar (Chair)
Mohammad Asghar (Oscar) AM
Mike Hedges
Julie Morgan
Gwyn R Price
Jenny Rathbone
Lindsay Whittle

Witnesses:

Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales, Wales Audit Office
Stephen Martin, Wales Audit Office
Jane Hutt, Minister for Finance and Leader of the House
Reg Kilpatrick, Director, Local Government and Public Service
Nicola Charles, Welsh Government
Mike Usher, Wales Audit Office
Martin Peters, Wales Audit Office

Committee Staff:

Tom Jackson (Clerk)
Sarah Beasley (Clerk)
Daniel Collier (Deputy Clerk)
Sarah Sargent (Deputy Clerk)
Joanest Jackson (Legal Advisor)

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and the public to the meeting.
- 1.2 Apologies had been received from Aled Roberts.

2. Briefing from the Auditor General for Wales on the Wales Audit Office report 'The educational attainment of looked after children and young people'

2.1 The Chair invited the Auditor General for Wales to brief the Committee on his report 'The educational attainment of looked after children and young people'.

Action point:

The Auditor General for Wales agreed to provide:

- Further details on the model used by the Scottish Government in helping looked after children and young people gain access to higher education.

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

4 and 7.

4. Options for handling 'The educational attainment of looked after children and young people'

4.1 The Committee agreed to write to the Chair of the Children and Young People Committee to consider the findings of the Auditor General's report as part of its scrutiny of forthcoming care legislation.

5. Public Audit (Wales) Bill – Evidence from the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House

5.1 The Committee took evidence from Jane Hutt, the Member in Charge of the Bill and Minister for Finance and Leader of the House; Reg Kilpatrick, Director of Local Government and Public Service, Welsh Government; and Nicola Charles, Legal Services, Welsh Government.

6. Public Audit (Wales) Bill – Evidence from the Auditor General for Wales

6.1 The Committee took evidence from Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales; Mike Usher, Group Director – Financial Audit, Wales Audit Office; and Martin Peters, Compliance Manager, Wales Audit Office.

Action point:

6.2 The Auditor General for Wales agreed to provide a supplementary note to the Committee on:

- his estimate of the financial implications of the Bill, and
- his concerns regarding TUPE arrangements for transferring staff to the new Wales Audit Office established by the Bill.

7. Consideration of evidence on Public Audit (Wales) Bill

7.1 The Committee considered the evidence provided by the Minister for Finance and Leader of the House and the Auditor General for Wales as part of its Stage 1 scrutiny of the Public Audit (Wales) Bill.

8. Papers to note

8.1 The Committee noted the minutes of the meeting on 17 July 2012.