

**MINUTES**

**Date:** 6 May 2004  
**Time:** 9.30am to 12.15pm  
**Venue:** Committee Rooms 3 & 4, Cardiff Bay

**Members**

Janet Davies (Chair)  
Leighton Andrews  
Mick Bates  
Alun Cairns  
Jocelyn Davies  
Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey  
Christine Gwyther  
Denise Idris-Jones  
Val Lloyd  
David Melding

**Attendance**

South Wales West  
Rhondda  
Montgomeryshire  
South Wales West  
South Wales East  
Preseli Pembrokeshire  
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire  
Conwy  
Swansea East  
South Wales Central

**Witnesses**

Michael Houlihan  
Director General, National Museums and Galleries of Wales  
Eurwyn William  
Deputy Director General, National Museums and Galleries of Wales

**Officials**

Sir John Bourn  
Auditor General for Wales  
Gillian Body  
National Audit Office  
Ian Summers  
National Audit Office  
Mike Usher  
National Audit Office  
Ceri Thomas  
Assembly Compliance Office

**Secretariat**

Adrian Crompton  
Committee Clerk  
Liz Wilkinson  
Deputy Committee Clerk

**Item 1: Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest.**

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members, witnesses and members of the public to the first meeting of the summer term.

1.2 Apologies were received from Mark Isherwood and Carl Sargeant for whom David Melding and

Tamsin Dunwoody-Kneafsey were substituting.

1.3 In respect of item 6, Leighton Andrews declared an interest as his wife was National Manager of BT in Wales.

## **Item 2: Collections Management at the National Museums and Galleries of Wales**

2.1 The Committee took evidence from Michael Houlihan, Director General, National Museums and Galleries of Wales and Eurwyn William, Deputy Director General, National Museums and Galleries of Wales.

2.2 A verbatim transcript will be attached as Annex 1 to these minutes.

### **Action**

Michael Houlihan to provide a note to the Committee on the National Museum and Galleries of Wales' annual expenditure on marketing and visitor research.

*The Committee adjourned from 11.32am until 11.50am*

## **Item 3: Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Audit Committee report on 'Compensating Farmers for Bovine Tuberculosis in Wales'**

3.1 The Auditor General said that the Welsh Assembly Government had responded positively to the Committee report and had accepted all 8 of its recommendations. In view of the current work being undertaken to eradicate the backlog of overdue tests for Bovine Tuberculosis, the Auditor General agreed to provide a report to the Committee on the progress made by the Assembly Government in implementing the recommendations in six months.

3.2 The Committee agreed to accept the Welsh Assembly Government response to its report.

### **Action point**

Auditor General to provide a progress report to the Committee on the implementation of its recommendations in six months.

## **Item 4: Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Audit Committee report on 'The Disposal of the Mid Wales Hospital'**

4.1 The Auditor General said that the Welsh Assembly Government had accepted all 11 of the Committee's recommendations. He said that he would keep under review the progress made by the

Assembly Government on the implementations of the recommendations.

4.2 The Committee agreed to accept the Welsh Assembly Government response to its report.

### **Item 5: Set-up costs of the Wales Audit Office**

5.1 The Auditor General explained the background to the draft Public Audit (Wales) Bill and the proposed Wales Audit Office. At the 23 October 2003 Audit Committee Members considered a memorandum on the costs that were likely to be incurred in setting up the Wales Audit Office. The latest estimate of these costs based on work undertaken and provisional quotes was £987,000.

5.2. Ian Summers said that the total forecast cost of £350,000 for information and communications technology would cover the purchase and installation of new IT infrastructure, networking and telecommunications for the new organisation as well as specialist support which would be required.

5.3 The contract for the configuration of the new information and communications technology had not yet gone out to tender. It was envisaged that the contract would include an appropriate penalty clause.

5.4 Members accepted the explanation given for the increase in the estimate, whilst noting that it represented a doubling of the original estimate produced by the Government.

5.5 The Committee approved the estimate of the set-up costs of the Wales Audit Office.

### **Item 6: Paper to note - Correspondence from the Permanent Secretary on recommendations contained in the Audit Committee report 'OSIRIS'**

6.1. The Committee noted the correspondence.

### **Item 7: Minutes of the previous meeting**

7.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the 11 March meeting.

**The Committee resolved to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 8.21(vi).**

### **PRIVATE SESSION**

### **Item 8: To consider the draft letter from the Chair to relevant Minister's and subject committee chairs on compliance with disability legislation in further education institutions**

8.1 The Committee agreed the draft letter.

**Item 9: To consider the draft Committee report ‘Renewal of Private Sector Housing in Wales’**

9.1 The Committee agreed its draft report.