

## Audit Committee

### Minutes

**Date:** 4 November 2004  
**Time:** 9.30 to 12.26pm  
**Venue:** Committee Room 3 & 4, Cardiff Bay

### Members

Janet Davies (Chair)  
Leighton Andrews  
Mick Bates  
Alun Cairns  
Jeff Cuthbert  
Jocelyn Davies  
Christine Gwyther  
Denise Idris-Jones  
Mark Isherwood  
Val Lloyd

### Attendance

South Wales West  
Rhondda  
Montgomeryshire  
South Wales West  
Caerphilly  
South Wales East  
Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire  
Conwy  
North Wales  
Swansea East

### Witnesses

Dr Helen Phillips  
Liz Parkes  
Nigel Reader  
Dr June Milligan  
Robert Williams

Director, Environment Agency Wales  
Head of Waste Regulation, Environment Agency  
Director of Finance, Environment Agency  
Head of Environment Division, Welsh Assembly  
Government  
Head of Waste Policy Branch, Welsh Assembly  
Government

### Officials

Sir John Bourn  
Gillian Body  
Mike Usher  
Dave Powell

Auditor General for Wales  
National Audit Office  
National Audit Office  
Assembly Compliance Officer

## **Secretariat**

Siwan Davies  
Liz Wilkinson

Committee Clerk  
Deputy Committee Clerk

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

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members, witnesses, the Auditor General for Wales and officials to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Carl Sargeant for whom Jeff Cuthbert was substituting.

1.3 The following declarations of interest were made:

- in respect of item 2, Alun Cairns as an objector to the application for a Pollution Prevention Control permit for the Crymlyn Burrows Materials Recovery and Energy Centre; and
- in respect of item 5, Christine Gwyther as Chair of INTERREG Programme Monitoring Committee.

### **Item 2: Environment Agency Wales: regulation of waste management**

2.1 The Committee took evidence from Dr June Milligan, Head of Environment Division, Welsh Assembly Government, Robert Williams, Head of Waste Policy Branch, Welsh Assembly Government, Helen Phillips, Director, Environment Agency Wales, Liz Parkes, Head of Waste Regulation, Environment Agency and Nigel Reader, Director of Finance, Environment Agency.

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

### **Action point**

Dr June Milligan to provide a breakdown of the required 500 new waste management facilities by type – Dr June Milligan.

Dr June Milligan to provide an explanatory note on the delay in completion of the Defra review of waste management exemptions – Dr June Milligan.

The Chair to write to the Permanent Secretary requesting a note on planning issues including the Welsh Assembly Government proposals to take account of health impacts of planning – Chair, Committee Services.

### **Item 3: Welsh Assembly Government response to the Audit Committee report**

## **'Management sickness absence by NHS trusts in Wales'**

3.1 The Auditor General said that the Welsh Assembly Government had accepted all of the recommendations in the Committee report and had given a commitment to report back to the Committee on progress made by the Sickness and Absence Management Steering Group.

3.2 The Committee accepted the Welsh Assembly Government response.

### **Item 4: Minutes of the previous meetings**

4.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the 30 September 2004 meeting.

**The Committee resolved to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 8.24 (ii) and (vi).**

### **Private Session**

### **Item 5: To consider the draft Committee report 'European Union Structural Funding: Progress on Securing the Benefits for Wales'**

5.1 Subject to a minor amendment the Committee approved its report 'European Union Structural Funding: Progress on Securing the Benefits for Wales'.

### **Item 6: Letter from the Auditor General for Wales regarding ELWa/National Council for Education and Training for Wales**

6.1 The Committee noted the letter from the Auditor General for Wales regarding ELWa/National Council for Education and Training for Wales, a copy of which is attached at Annex 2 to these minutes. In line with the provisions of Standing Orders 19.2 (i) and 8.24 (ii) one paragraph is excluded from publication, as it would disclose personal information relating to identifiable individuals.