

Agenda

Date: 25 September 2003
Time: 9:30am to 3.30pm
Venue: Committee Room 3 &4, National Assembly for Wales

Item 1: **Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

Item 2: **Minutes of the previous meeting (9:30 - 9:35)**
Paper: AC(2) 02-03(min)
Purpose: To ratify the minutes of the meeting held on 17 July 2003

Item 3: **ELWa/National Council for Education and Training for Wales: Financial Management of Partnership and Innovation & Development Projects (9:35 - 10:40)**
Paper: AC(2) 03-03(p1)
Purpose: The Committee will take evidence in connection with the report by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on 'ELWa/National Council for Education and Training for Wales: Financial Management of Partnership and Innovation & Development Projects'

Witnesses: Sir Jon Shortridge - Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales
Peter Higson - Interim Chief Executive, National Council for Education and Training for Wales
Steve Martin – Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and former Chief Executive and Accounting Officer for the National Council for Education and Training for Wales

Break (10:40 - 11:00)

Item 3 Cont): **ELWa/National Council for Education and Training for Wales: Financial Management of Partnership and Innovation & Development Projects (11:00 - 12:10)**
Paper: AC(2) 03-03(p1)
Purpose: The Committee will take evidence in connection with the report by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on 'ELWa/National Council for Education and Training for Wales: Financial Management of Partnership and Innovation & Development Projects'

Witnesses: Sir Jon Shortridge - Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales
Peter Higson - Interim Chief Executive, National Council for Education and Training for Wales
Steve Martin – Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and former Chief Executive and Accounting Officer for the National Council for Education and Training Wales

Item 4: **Report to the Audit Committee of the National Assembly for Wales on the National Council for Education and Training for Wales – progress by further education institutions in achieving cost savings through improved procurement practice (12:10-12:25)**

Paper: AC(2) 03-03(p2) and AC(2) 03-03(p2a)

Purpose: The Committee will take evidence in connection with the report by the National Council for Education and Training for Wales on achieving cost savings through improved procurement practice in further education institutions.

Witnesses: Sir Jon Shortridge - Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales

Peter Higson - Interim Chief Executive, National Council for Education and Training for Wales

Steve Martin – Chief Executive, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and former Chief Executive and Accounting Officer for the National Council for Education and Training for Wales

Item 5: **Papers to note (12:25 –12:30)**

Paper: AC(2) 03-03(p3) – Correspondence from the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning to the Chair of the Audit Committee – reply to the Committee’s letter regarding the Welsh Assembly Government’s response to the Audit Committee’s Report on the National Council for Education and Training for Wales accounts to 31 March 2002.

AC(2) 03-03(p4) – Correspondence from the Auditor General for Wales regarding the ability of Ministers to respond to questions relating to issues that are the subject of ongoing investigations by the Auditor General for Wales.

AC(2) 03-03(p5) – Correspondence from the Auditor General for Wales on the deferral of his value for money examination of the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme.

AC(2) 03-03(p6) –Correspondence from the Auditor General for Wales on the deferral of his value for money examination of the Effectiveness of Regional Selective Assistance in Wales.

Break (12:30 – 14:00)

Item 6: **Welsh Assembly Government oversight of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies and their financial management (14:00-15:30)**

Paper: AC(2) 03-03(p1)

Purpose: The Committee will take evidence in connection with the report by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on 'ELWa/National Council for Education and Training for Wales: Financial Management of Partnership and Innovation & Development Projects'

Witnesses: Sir Jon Shortridge - Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales