

AUDIT COMMITTEE

AC(2) 04-03(min)

MINUTES

Date: 23 October 2003
Time: 9.30am to 11.30am
Venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay

Attendance

Members

Janet Davies (Chair)	South Wales West
Leighton Andrews	Rhondda
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Alun Cairns	South Wales West
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Christine Gwyther	Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire not items 1 and 2)
Denise Idris-Jones	Conwy
Val Lloyd	Swansea East
Carl Sargeant	Alyn and Deeside

Witnesses

Sir Jon Shortridge	Permanent Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer, National Assembly for Wales
David Richards	Principal Finance Officer, National Assembly for Wales
Tony Edwards	Chief Veterinary Officer, Wales
Colin Williams	Head of Animal Health Division

Officials

Sir John Bourn	Auditor General for Wales
Lew Hughes	Deputy Auditor General for Wales
Gillian Body	National Audit Office
Ian Summers	National Audit Office
David Powell	Assembly Compliance Office

Secretariat

Adrian Crompton	Committee Clerk
Liz Wilkinson	Deputy Committee Clerk

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

1.1 Apologies were received from Mark Isherwood. Christine Gwyther would not be present for item 2, in accordance with Standing Order 12.7.

Item 2: Compensating Farmers for Bovine Tuberculosis in Wales

Paper: AC(2) 04-03(p1)

2.1 The Committee took evidence from Sir Jon Shortridge, Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales, David Richards, Principal Finance Officer, National Assembly for Wales, Tony Edwards, Chief Veterinary Officer for Wales and Colin Williams, Head of Animal Health Division, National Assembly for Wales in connection with the report by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on 'Compensating Farmers for Bovine Tuberculosis in Wales'.

2.2 A verbatim transcript of Item 2 will be attached as Annex 1 to these minutes.

Action points:

- **The Committee would be provided with a note on the legal sanctions available to deal with intentional misclaims or misvaluations and for details of subsequent prosecutions – Colin Williams, Head of Animal Health Division.**

The Committee adjourned for approximately 15 minutes at 11:00.

Item 3: Programme of Value for Money examinations and Estimate of the Income and Expenses of the Auditor General for Wales

Paper: AC(2) 04-03(p2), AC(2) 04-03(p3), AC(2) 04-03(p4)

3.1 The Auditor General for Wales introduced a paper outlining the proposed value for money examinations for the financial year 2004-2005. The programme also included details of work planned or underway for the financial year 2003-2004 and provided details of proposed value for money examinations for 2005-2006 and beyond.

3.2 He outlined the estimate of the income and expenses for the year ending 31 March 2005 and explained the request for the proposed increase of £205,000 on the 2003-04 estimate.

3.3 The Committee noted the supplementary Memorandum on the set up costs of the Wales Audit Office.

3.4 The Committee supported the planned programme and financial estimate. Members requested that the AGW give consideration to including in the programme an examination of the use of NHS resources for private consultancy work. The AGW agreed to take account of Members' views and would return to the Committee in due course with his final programme of work for 2004-05.

**Item 4: Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Audit Committee report
'Continuing the Regeneration of Cardiff Bay'**

Paper: AC(2) 04-03(p5), AC(2) 04-03(p5)

4.1 The Auditor General for Wales advised Members that the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the report covered the full range of concerns and accepted all recommendations contained within the report. The National Audit Office would keep the Committee informed of progress on the Welsh Assembly Government's forthcoming review of public investment in Cardiff Bay.

Item 5: Paper to note – Draft letter from the Chair of the Audit Committee to the Chief Executive of National Council for Education and Training for Wales concerning the progress being made on procurement in the further education sector

Paper: AC(2) 04-03(p6)

5.1 The Committee approved the draft letter.

Item 6: Minutes of the previous meeting

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

6.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 7: PRIVATE SESSION - Audit Committee's draft report on 'The Finances of NHS in Wales 2003'

Paper: AC(2) 04-03(p8)

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

7.2 The Committee considered and approved its draft report on 'The Finances of NHS Wales 2003'.

Committee Secretariat

October 2003