

AUDIT COMMITTEE

AC(2) 05-03(min)

MINUTES

Date:	27 November 2003
Time:	9.30am to 12.40am
Venue:	Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay
Members	Attendance
Janet Davies (Chair)	South Wales West
Leighton Andrews	Rhondda
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 (not items 3-5)
Val Lloyd	Swansea East
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Witnesses	
Sir Jon Shortridge	Permanent Secretary and Principal Accounting Officer, National Assembly for Wales
David Richards	Principal Finance Officer, National Assembly for Wales
Gareth Jones	Director of Environment, Planning & Countryside Department
Clive Alexander	Head of CAP Management Division
Officials	
Sir John Bourn	Auditor General for Wales
Lew Hughes	Deputy Auditor General for Wales
Gillian Body	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 Apologies were received from Mick Bates and from Carl Sargeant. Christine Gwyther would not be present for item 2, in accordance with Standing Order 12.7.

Item 2: Late Payments to Farmers in Wales

Paper: AC(2) 05-03(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, Gareth Jones, Director of Environment, Planning and Countryside Department, National Assembly for Wales and Clive Alexander, Head of CAP Management Division, National Assembly for Wales in connection with the report by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on 'Late Payments to Farmers in Wales'.

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

The Committee adjourned from 11:46 until 12:01.

Item 3: Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Audit Committee reports, 'Management of the Further Education Estate in Wales' and, 'the Procurement of Primary Care Medicines': AC (2) 05-03(p2), AC(2) 05-03(p3), AC(2) 05-03(p4) and AC(2) 05-03(p5)

3.1 The Committee considered and accepted the two responses from the Welsh Assembly Government without recommending further action.

3.2 The Auditor General for Wales said that he would inform the Committee if its recommendations on the procurement of primary care medicines were not adequately implemented.

Item 4: Minutes of the previous meeting

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

4.1 The Committee approved the minutes of the previous meeting.

Item 5: PRIVATE SESSION - Audit Committee's draft reports on 'The Management and Delivery of Hospital Cleaning Services in Wales' and 'ELWa/National Council for Education and Training for Wales: Financial Management of Partnership and Innovation & Development Projects'

Paper: AC(2) 05-03(p6) and AC(2) 05-03(p7)

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

5.2 The Committee considered and approved both draft reports, subject to the addition of a note from the Auditor General for Wales on the role and responsibilities of Assembly Sponsored Body Accounting Officers and to agreed amendments to be made out of Committee.

5.3 It was agreed that Committee Members would be informed in advance of report publication dates.

5.4 The meeting closed at 12:41.

Committee Secretariat

December 2003