

Audit Committee

Minutes AC(2) 09-06

Meeting date: 12 October 2006

Meeting time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Janet Davies (Chair)	South Wales West
Leighton Andrews	Rhondda
Mick Bates	Montgomeryshire
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Alun Cairns	South East Wales
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Irene James	Islwyn
Carl Sergeant	Alyn & Deeside
Catherine Thomas	Llanelli

Officials in Attendance

Jeremy Colman	Auditor General for Wales
Gillian Body	Wales Audit Office
Matthew Mortlock	Wales Audit Office
Anthony Snow	Wales Audit Office
Mike Usher	Wales Audit Office
Ceri Stradling	Wales Audit Office
Neville Andrews	Wales Audit Office

David Powell	Assembly Compliance Officer
--------------	-----------------------------

Witnesses

Sir Jon Shortridge	Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales
Bernard Galton	Director of Human Resources Group, National Assembly for Wales
Peter Kennedy	Head of HR (Delivery) Division, National Assembly for Wales

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Daniel Collier	Deputy Committee Clerk

Item 1: Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interests

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Denise Idris Jones. There were no substitutions or declarations of interest.

Item 2: The management of sickness absence in the National Assembly for Wales Paper: AC(2) 09-06(p1)

2.1 The Committee took evidence from Sir Jon Shortridge, Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales, Bernard Galton, Director of Human Resources Group, National Assembly for Wales and Peter Kennedy, Head of HR (Delivery) Division, National Assembly for Wales.

Action points

Sir Jon Shortridge agreed to provide the Committee with the following:

- A copy of a management chart with figures comparing levels of absence in 2006 to 2005, which demonstrate how the organisation is sustaining reductions in absence levels through the ASPB merger and relocation strategies.
- Details of Cabinet Office rules governing occupational sick pay which state that incidents of staff becoming absent beyond 11am would be counted as zero days on the payroll system.
- The financial benefits of the attendance recording function of the Snowdrop HR system.

Item 3: Programme of value for money examinations

Paper: AC(2) 09-06(p2)

3.1 The Committee considered the impact of the Auditor General for Wales' value for money work over the past year and proposals for examinations to start in 2007-08. The Auditor General undertook to consider Members' comments when finalising his programme, which would come to a future meeting.

Item 4: Estimate of the income and expenses of the Wales Audit Office for the year ending 31 March 2006.

Paper: AC(2) 09-06(p3)

4.1 The Committee considered the Auditor General for Wales' estimate of the income and expenses of the Wales Audit Office for the year ending 31 March 2008. The Committee agreed the income and expenditure.

Item 5: Minutes of the previous meeting

Paper: AC(2) 08-06(mins)

5.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its 21 September 2006 meeting.

Paper to note:

Paper: AC(2) 09-06(p4)

Members noted the correspondence from the Auditor General for Wales regarding Day Surgery in Wales.

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

Private Session

Item 6: Audit Committee draft reports Is the NHS in Wales managing within its available financial resources? and Work Based Learning – National Council for Education and Training in Wales: 2004-05 Financial Statements

Paper: AC(2) 09-06(p5), AC(2) 09-06(p6)

6.1 The Committee considered the draft reports.

Committee Service

October 2006