



Date: 19<sup>th</sup> June 2009  
Our ref: JC/0866/fgb  
Your ref:  
Pages: 1 of 2

24 Cathedral Road / Heol y Gadeirlan  
Cardiff / Caerdydd  
CF11 9LJ  
Tel / Ffôn: 029 20 320510  
Fax / Ffacs: 029 20 320555  
www.wao.gov.uk

Email / Ebst: [jeremy.colman@wao.gov.uk](mailto:jeremy.colman@wao.gov.uk)  
PA / CP Fiona Bashford, [fiona.bashford@wao.gov.uk](mailto:fiona.bashford@wao.gov.uk)

Mr Jonathan Morgan AM  
Chair of the Audit Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

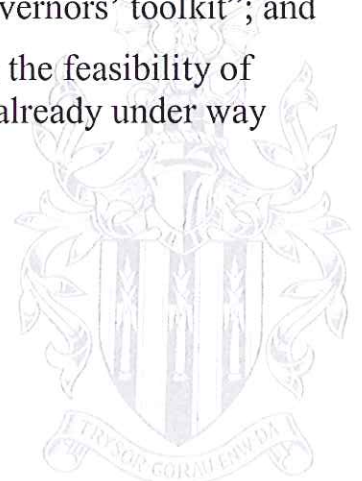
*De Chi*

## AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT ON COLLABORATION BETWEEN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

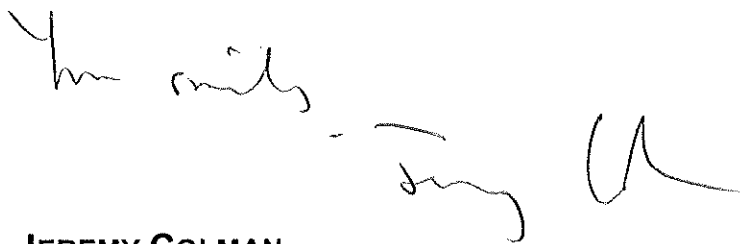
The Clerk's letter of 12 June 2009 requested my advice on the response by the Assembly Government to the Audit Committee's report on *Collaboration between higher education institutions*.

The Audit Committee's report asked for a response to the three recommendations in my own report on this matter, in addition to one recommendation of its own. There are thus four recommendations in total. The Assembly Government has responded positively to these recommendations, accepting all four in full. In particular, HEFCW has:

- enhanced the information available to institutions on the characteristics of good project proposals, the reasons why projects were rejected and the findings of project evaluations;
- started a major overhaul of how it engages with institutions at a the strategic level, including proposals to establish a "governors' toolkit"; and
- engaged with its counterpart in England, HEFCE, on the feasibility of cross-border collaboration – with active discussions already under way between a Welsh and English institution.



I do not think that the Committee needs to take any additional action at this point. However, the Assembly Government's response refers to actions being taken, for example through the issue of guidance, over the period July to December 2009. I propose, therefore, that my staff should review the actions taken and draw the Committee's attention to any that do not meet the commitments set out in the Assembly Government's response.



**JEREMY COLMAN**  
**AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES**