


# Audit Committee

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*Don Ch...*

## **WELSH ASSEMBLY GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT, *DELIVERING THE HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION ACT IN WALES***

The Clerk's letter of 20 October requested my advice on the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the recommendations made by the Audit Committee in its report *Delivering the Home Energy Conservation Act in Wales*.

The Assembly Government's response in effect is a holding one. Whereas it welcomes the Committee's findings and accepts all five of the Committee's recommendations, the response is specific in terms of how the recommendations will be implemented only in respect of recommendation v. The Assembly Government says that it will consider proposals for implementing of the other four recommendations in developing a National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan.

The Assembly Government expects to develop final proposals for the National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan following its assessment of responses from a three month period of consultation, which starts in January 2009. Following the conclusion of this process, the Assembly Government proposes to write to the Chair of the Committee, probably around May 2009, setting out how all of the Committee's recommendations are being implemented.

In the particular circumstances of this case, I consider that the Assembly Government's submission of a holding response is acceptable. This is because the Committee, in the preamble to its recommendations (paragraph 14 of the Committee's report), had advised that the Assembly Government should consider the Committee's recommendations within the context of the development of the new national plan. It seems right therefore that the Committee await finalisation of the Plan before considering in full the adequacy of the Assembly Government's response.

If the Committee is content with this approach, I would be happy to provide further advice, on the Assembly Government's response to the Committee's recommendations and on the National Energy Efficiency and Savings Plan more broadly, when the Assembly Government provides a fuller response in or around May next year.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*J.C. Colman*

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