

AUDIT COMMITTEE AC-07-00 (p.6)

Date: 19 October 2000
Time: 2.00pm
Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

Title: LETTER FROM AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES, 12 SEPTEMBER 2000 ON THE CABINET RESPONSE TO AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT 00-04 - THE NHS (WALES) SUMMARISED ACCOUNTS 1998-99

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September 2000

NHS Wales Summarised Accounts 1998-99: Response to the Audit Committee's Report

Thank you for your letter of 1 September 2000 about the response from the Cabinet of the National Assembly for Wales to the Committee's Report on the 1998-99 NHS Wales Summarised Accounts. You asked for the Auditor General's advice on the contents of this response and on any follow-up action which the Committee might take.

In its report, the Committee made twelve specific recommendations. The Cabinet has responded positively and constructively to each of these, and given a number of undertakings about actions that the Assembly's NHS Directorate will take, in conjunction with NHS bodies where appropriate, in order to respond to the Committee's concerns. Staff of the National Audit Office Wales will be monitoring the completion of these actions closely, on behalf of the Auditor General, during their financial and value for money audits of the NHS over the coming months.

Subject to the views of the Committee, given the Cabinet's positive response the Auditor General

suggests that there is no need for the Committee to take any further action at the moment. He intends to comment further on progress being made in the areas of financial management and fraud (recommendations 1 to 6, 9 and 10 refer) in his Report on the 1999-2000 Summarised Accounts. The responses to recommendations 7 and 8 will be considered within his current study of clinical negligence. The Auditor General will report back to the Committee in due course on the implementation of the other undertakings which the Cabinet has given.

I hope that you find this response helpful.

Ann-Marie Harkin

Private Secretary