

AUDIT COMMITTEE

MINUTES

Date: 29 March 2001

Time: 2pm

Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

Attendance

Members

Janet Davies (Chair)	South Wales West
Alun Cairns	South Wales West
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Janice Gregory	Ogmore
Alison Halford	Delyn
Ann Jones	Vale of Clwyd
Dafydd Wigley	Caernarfon

Officials

Sir John Bourn	Auditor General for Wales
Ian Summers	National Audit Office
Dave Powell	National Assembly Compliance Officer
Russell Keith	Committee Clerk

Agenda Item 1: Evidence Taking Session

Paper: AC-03-01(p.1)

1.1 Apologies were received from Kirsty Williams. Peter Law was precluded from participating in the meeting under Standing Order 12.7. Janice Gregory substituted for Lynne Neagle.

1.2 The Committee took evidence in connection with the National Audit Office report on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on *National Assembly for Wales Resource Accounts, 1999-2000* which was published on 31 January 2001.

Witnesses

Mr Jon Shortridge Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales

Mr David Richards Principal Finance Officer, National Assembly for Wales

Mr Laurie Pavelin Chief Accountant, National Assembly for Wales

1.3 A verbatim transcript of this item will be attached as an annex to these minutes.

Agenda Item 2: Evidence Taking Session

Paper: AC-03-01(p.2)

2.1 The Committee took evidence in connection with the National Audit Office report on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on General Report of the Auditor General for Wales: Financial Audit of 1999-2000 Accounts which was published on 22 March 2001.

Witnesses

Mr Jon Shortridge Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales

Mr David Richards Principal Finance Officer, National Assembly for Wales

Mr Laurie Pavelin Chief Accountant, National Assembly for Wales

2.2 A verbatim transcript of this item will be attached as an annex to these minutes.

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of Previous Meeting

Paper: AC-02-01(min)

3.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed, subject to two changes to the details of members in attendance.

3.2 Members did not wish to raise any issues in relation to the papers to note for this meeting.

3.3 The Chair said the next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 3 May. This date would be problematic if a general election was called for that day in that members had indicated to her that they would not be able to attend. The 10 May 2001 had been identified as the likely alternative date.

3.4 The Chair raised the problems of holding Audit Committee meetings on a Thursday afternoon. Members would have been present in Assembly plenary session in the morning and this session was becoming ever longer, that day's session concluding 20 minutes before the Committee's proceedings were to begin. As a result, members were perhaps not able to do justice to the subject matter of committee meetings. Members said that this was indeed a problem and agreed to the Chair's proposal to write to the Presiding Officer and the Assembly Business Manager to request they consider rescheduling Audit Committee meetings.

Agenda Item 4: Draft Audit Committee Report on *Access to Records and Information by the Auditor General for Wales*

4.1 The Committee resolved to exclude the public from this part of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 8.21(vi):

A Committee may resolve to exclude the public from a meeting or any part of a meeting where:

(vi) the committee is deliberating on the conclusions or recommendations of a report it proposes to publish; or is preparing itself to take evidence from any person.

4.2 Members considered the draft report and agreed its contents.

4.3 members noted that it was Julie Bragg's last meeting as Deputy Clerk and thanked her for her excellent service.

4.4 The meeting closed at 4.30pm.