

AUDIT COMMITTEE**MINUTES****Date:** 11 May 2000**Time:** 9.30am**Venue:** Committee Room 1**Attendance** **Members**

Janet Davies (Chair)

SW West

Lorraine Barrett

Cardiff South & Penarth

Peter Black

SW West

Alun Cairns

SW West

Jane Davidson

Pontypridd

Geraint Davies

Rhondda

Brian Gibbons

Aberavon

Alison Halford

Delyn

Dafydd Wigley

Caernarfon

Officials

Sir John Bourn

Auditor General for Wales

Frank Grogan

National Audit Office

Sharon Davies

Acting National Assembly Compliance
Officer

Andrew George

Clerk

Julie Bragg

Deputy Clerk

Agenda Item 1: Evidence Taking Session
Papers: AC-04-00(p.1) and AC-04-00(p.2)

1.1 The Committee took evidence in connection with the report by the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on Welsh Development Agency: Managing the creation of the enlarged Agency and looking for future savings which was presented to the National Assembly on 4 May 2000 and on Welsh Development Agency: Support for Indigenous Businesses in Wales which was presented to the National Assembly on 9 May 2000.

Witnesses

Jon Shortridge	Permanent Secretary, National Assembly for Wales
Steve Phillips	Head, Economic Policy Division, National Assembly for Wales
Brian Willott, CB	Chief Executive, Welsh Development Agency
Richard Beaumont	Executive Director, Human Resources and Finance, Welsh Development Agency
Alan Morgan	Executive Director, Business and Product Development, Welsh Development Agency

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

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of Previous Meeting
Paper: AC-02-00(min)

2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

2.2 The Chair advised Members that she had recently met David Davis, Chair of the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee, and Andrew Welsh, Convenor of the Scottish Parliament Audit Committee, to discuss areas of mutual interest. It had been agreed that the three committees would co-operate whenever an investigation by one committee was likely to be of interest to the others. There was also the possibility of developing a common approach to the way in which the committees were able to look at projects supported by the Private Finance Initiative.

Agenda Item 3: Audit Committee's report on Further Education in Wales

3.1 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 the committee is deliberating on the conclusions or recommendations of a report it proposes to publish.

There was a full discussion of the draft report and the issues raised by members will be taken into account in the final report.

3.2 The meeting concluded at 12.40pm.