

# Public Accounts Committee

## Minutes: PAC(3)-13-10: 7 October 2010

The meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at: [http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en\\_400002\\_07\\_10\\_2010&t=0](http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_400002_07_10_2010&t=0)

**Time: 13.35 – 16.38**

**Venue: Committee Room 3, Y Senedd, Cardiff Bay**

### Assembly Members in Attendance

Jonathan Morgan (Chair), Cardiff North  
Lorraine Barrett, Cardiff South and Penarth  
Peter Black, South Wales West  
Angela Burns, Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire  
Jeff Cuthbert, Caerphilly  
Bethan Jenkins, South Wales West  
Janet Ryder, North Wales

### Others in Attendance

Anthony Barrett, Managing Partner, Financial Audit, Wales Audit Office  
Gillian Body, Managing Partner, Performance Audit, Wales Audit Office  
Simon Edge, Engagement Partner, Compliance, Wales Audit Office  
Patrick Spillane, Internal Audit and Risk Management Wales Audit Office  
Kevin Thomas, Managing Partner, Planning and Resources, Wales Audit Office  
Huw Vaughan-Thomas, Auditor General for Wales

### Committee Staff

Alun Davidson, Clerk  
Andrew Minnis, Deputy Clerk  
Joanest Jackson, Legal Advisor

### 1. Apologies and substitutions

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed committee members and members of the public to the meeting.
- 1.2 The Chair received apologies from Alun Davies, Irene James and Nick Ramsay. Angela Burns substituted for Nick Ramsay.

### 2. Update on the Wales Audit Office Peer Review: briefing from the Auditor General for Wales

Paper: PAC(3) 13-10 (p1) Update on the Wales Audit Office peer review

- 2.1 The Auditor General for Wales briefed the committee on progress regarding the implementation of the Wales Audit Office Peer Review.
- 2.2 The Auditor General for Wales agreed to provide the committee with a paper summarising its work on local government performance audit and corporate assessments, as well as details of the ex-post quality review.

### 3. Governance of the Wales Audit Office: briefing from the Auditor General for Wales

Paper: PAC(3) 13-10(p2) Proposed governance arrangements for the Wales Audit Office

- 3.1 The Auditor General for Wales briefed the committee on his proposed governance arrangements for the Wales Audit Office.
- 3.2 The committee agreed to consider the recommendations made by the Auditor General for Wales and to write to the Auditor General with its response.

### 4. Abolition of the Audit Commission – implications for the Wales Audit Office: briefing from the Auditor General for Wales

- 4.1 The Auditor General for Wales briefed the committee on the implications of the abolition of the Audit Commission for the Wales Audit Office.
- 4.2 The committee agreed to monitor the passage of legislation to abolish the Audit Commission in the UK Parliament to identify any areas where the powers of the Wales Audit Office may be affected, and to notify the Constitutional Affairs Committee of its finding.

## **5. Questions to the Auditor General for Wales on the departure of the former Chief Operating Officer from the Wales Audit Office and the Auditor General's annual report and accounts 2009-10**

5.1 The committee questioned the Auditor General for Wales on the departure of the former Chief Operating Officer from the Wales Audit Office and the Auditor General's annual report and accounts.

**Subject to the Committee's agreement, the remainder of the meeting will be held in private session under Standing Order 10.37**

## **6. Questions to the Auditor General on the departure of the former Chief Operating Officer from the Wales Audit Office and the Auditor General's annual report and accounts 2009-10**

6.1 The committee questioned the Auditor General for Wales on the departure of the former Chief Operating Officer from the Wales Audit Office and the Auditor General's annual report and accounts.

6.2 The committee agreed to seek further information from the auditors of the accounts of the Auditor General for Wales, and to report on the findings of its consideration of the issues surrounding the departure of the former Chief Operating Officer of the Wales Audit Office in due course.

## **7. Due diligence in the Wales Audit Office: briefing from the Auditor General for Wales**

7.1 The Auditor General for Wales briefing the committee on the due diligence undertaken by the Wales Audit Office.

## **8. Informal briefing on sustainable development and business decision making in the Welsh Assembly Government**

8.1 Due to the volume of earlier business the informal briefing on sustainable development and business decision making in the Welsh Assembly Government was postponed for consideration at a later meeting.

**Committee Service  
October 2010**