

AUDIT COMMITTEE**MINUTES****Date:** 28th June 2001**Time:** 2pm**Venue:** Committee Room 2, National Assembly Building**Attendance** **Members**

Janet Davies (Chair) South Wales West

Alun Cairns South Wales West

Jocelyn Davies South Wales East

Alison Halford Delyn

Dafydd Wigley Caernarfon

Lorraine Barrett Cardiff South and Penarth

Officials

Mr Lew Hughes Representative for the Auditor General for Wales

Karen Taylor National Audit Office

Ian Summers National Audit Office

Mike Usher National Audit Office

Dave Powell National Assembly Compliance Officer

Marie Knox Acting Committee Clerk

Nichola Brown Acting Deputy Committee Clerk

Agenda Item 1: Evidence Taking Session - NHS Summarise Accounts, 1999-2000**Paper: AC-04-01 (p.1)**

1.1 Lorraine Barrett substituted for Lynne Neagle. Peter Law was precluded from participating in the meeting under

Standing Order 12.7. Apologies were received from Ann Jones and Kirsty Williams.

1.2 The Committee took evidence in connection with the report of the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on *NHS Summarised Accounts 1999-2000* which was published on 30th March 2001.

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

Witnesses

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| Ann Lloyd | Director, NHS Wales |
| Sara Beaver | Principal Finance officer, NHS Wales |
| Jan Williams | Chief Executive, Bro Taf Health Authority |

Item 2: Evidence -taking session - Health Professional Training

Papers : AC-04-01(p.2) and AC-04-01(p.10)

2.1 The Committee took evidence in connection with the report of the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on *Educating and Training the Future Health Professional Workforce for Wales* which was published on 1 March 2001.

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

Witnesses

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| Ann Lloyd | Director, NHS Wales |
| Alan Hanna | Head of Human resources, NHS Wales |
| Steve Martin | Chief Executive, Elwa |
| Roger Carter | Head of Programmes, Elwa |

Agenda Item 3: Embargoed Reports Distribution Policy

Paper: AC-04-01 (p.3)

3.1 The committee agreed the policy on the distribution of embargoed copies of reports before their general Publication as outlined in the paper.

Agenda item 4: Minutes of Previous Meeting

Paper: AC-04-01 (min)

4.1 The Committee agreed the minutes of the previous meeting.

Papers to note:

4.2 The Committee noted David Edwards' correction to his evidence given to the 8 March 2001 hearing on clinical negligence. The Committee was greatly concerned that the Chief Executives of NHS Trusts questioned at the hearing had thought there was a £1,000 limit on ex gratia payments while the limit was in fact £1,000,000 and that this misapprehension was likely to have prevented the NHS trusts offering ex gratia payments in appropriate circumstance. The Committee agreed to note this in its report.

4.3 The committee noted the correspondence from Mr Jon Shortridge which said that a comment in the Committee's Report on Assembly Accommodation could be interpreted as suggesting that he attempted to mislead the Committee. The Committee requested that the Chair write to Mr Shortridge confirming that the Committee in no way meant to imply that he had attempted to mislead the Committee but consider that he answered the questions asked in good faith.

4.4 The Committee noted that Edwina Hart's letter forwarding the Cabinet's response to the Accommodation Report asked the Committee to consider extending the time by which Cabinet must to Audit Committee reports under Standing Order 12.5. The Committee agreed to defer consideration of this to the following meeting.

4.5 The meeting closed at 17.05pm.