

Audit Committee

Minutes AC(2) 11-06

Meeting date: 14 December 2006

Meeting time: 9.00am – 3.05pm

Meeting venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Janet Davies (Chair)	South Wales West
Leighton Andrews (Afternoon)	Rhondda
Lorraine Barrett (Morning)	Cardiff South and Penarth
Jeff Cuthbert	Caerphilly
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Jonathan Morgan	South Wales Central
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Denise Idris Jones	Conwy
Irene James	Islwyn
Carl Sargeant	Alyn & Deeside
Jenny Randerson	Cardiff Central

Officials in Attendance

Jeremy Colman	Auditor General for Wales
Gill Lewis	Wales Audit Office
Matthew Mortlock	Wales Audit Office
Rob Powell	Wales Audit Office
James Verity	Wales Audit Office

David Powell	Assembly Compliance Officer
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Witnesses

Alan Murray	Chief Executive, Welsh Ambulance Services Trust
Philip Selwood	Ambulance Adviser, Welsh Ambulance Services Trust
Ann Lloyd	Head of Health and Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government
Simon Dean	Chief Executive, Health Commission Wales
Stuart Marples	Joint Director, Performance and Operations, Department for Health and Social Services
Derek Griffin	Regional Director, North Wales Regional Office

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Kathryn Jenkins	Committee Clerk
Daniel Collier	Deputy Committee Clerk

Item 1: Introduction, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interests

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Alun Cairns for whom Jonathan Morgan was substituting, Mick Bates for whom Jenny Randerson was substituting and Catherine Thomas for whom Jeff Cuthbert was substituting. Apologies were also received from Leighton Andrews for the morning session for which Lorraine Barrett substituted.

Item 2: Presentation by the Auditor General on his report on Ambulance Services in Wales

Paper: AC(2) 11-06(p1)

2.1 The Committee received a presentation from the Auditor General for Wales on his report Ambulance Services in Wales and questioned him on his findings.

Item 3: Ambulance Services in Wales – evidence from the Trust

Paper: AC(2) 11-06(p1)

3.1 The Committee took evidence from Alan Murray, Chief Executive of the Welsh Ambulance Services Trust and Philip Selwood, Ambulance Adviser of the Ambulance Services Trust.

Action points

Alan Murray agreed to provide the Committee with the following:

- A note setting out how the funding shortfall for the Ambulance Radio Re-Procurement Project (ARRP) would be met and how it fitted within the Service Change and Efficiency Plan (SCEP)

Item 4: Ambulance Services in Wales – evidence from the Welsh Assembly Government

Paper: AC(2) 11-06(p1)

4.1 The Committee took evidence from Ann Lloyd, Head of Department for Health and Social Services, Welsh Assembly Government, Stuart Marples, Joint Director of Performance and Operations, Department for Health and Social Services, Simon Dean, Chief Executive of Health Commission Wales and Derek Griffin, Regional Director of North Wales Regional Office.

Action points

Ann Lloyd agreed to provide the Committee with the following:

- A transcript of notes used when addressing the Welsh Ambulance Service Trust on two occasions expressing her concerns about management competence, the Trust's performance and the need for immediate action.

Item 5: The Welsh Assembly Government responses to the Audit Committee's reports on NHS Energy Management in Wales and Progress in the further education sector: estates management and procurement.

Paper: AC(2) 11-06(p2), AC(2) 11-06(p3), AC(2) 11-06(p4), AC(2) 11-06(p5)

5.1 The Committee considered the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Committee's report on NHS Energy Management in Wales and Progress in the further education sector: estates management and procurement and discussed the Auditor General's advice. The Committee was content.

Item 6: Minutes of the previous meeting

Paper: AC(2) 10-06(mins)

6.1 The Committee approved the minutes of its 23 November 2006 meeting.

Private Session

The Committee resolved to exclude the public from remainder of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order 8.24(vi).

Item 7: Committee evaluation of evidence session

7.1 The Committee discussed the evidence taken on the Auditor General for Wales' report Ambulance Services in Wales.

Item 8: Audit Committee draft report the management of sickness absence in the National Assembly for Wales

Paper: AC(2) 11-06(p6)

8.1 The Committee considered the draft report.

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