

AUDIT COMMITTEE MINUTES

Date 8th March 2001

Time: 2pm

Venue: Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building

Attendance

Members

Janet SW West
Davies
(Chair)

Jocelyn SW East
Davies

Alison Delyn
Halford

Karen Clwyd South
Sinclair

Lynne Torfaen
Neagle

Dafydd Caernarfon
Wigley

Officials

Sir John Auditor General for Wales
Bourn

Gillian National Audit Office
Body

Dave Powell National Assembly Compliance Officer

Russell Committee Clerk
Keith

Nichola Committee Administrator
Brown

Agenda Item 1: Evidence Taking Session

Papers: AC-02-01(p.1)

Witnesses

Mr Ann Lloyd Director/CyfarwyddwrNHS/GIG Wales/Cymru

Mr Gren Kershaw Chief Executive of Conwy & Denbighsire NHS Trust

Ms Alison Walcot Welsh Health Legal Services

Mrs Sarah Beaver Principal Finance Officer for the NHS in Wales

Mr Ian Biggs Welsh Risk Pool

1.1 In accordance with Standing Order 12.7, Karen Sinclair substituted for Peter Law. Apologies were received from Kirsty Williams, Alun Cairns and Ann Jones.

1.2 The Committee took evidence in connection with the National Audit Office report on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on *Clinical Negligence in the NHS in Wales* which was published on 23 February 2001.

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

Agenda Item 2: Minutes of Previous Meeting

Paper: AC-01-01(min)

2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Item 3: Draft Accommodation Report on Accommodation Arrangements for the National Assembly for 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:

(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.

3.2 The committee further resolved that the Officials from the Northern Ireland Audit Office were not deemed to be members of the public for the purposes of that resolution.

3.3 The Committee considered the draft report and agreed publication. Members particularly noted their concerns already expressed in the Report regarding continuing lack of signed contract with the architects.

Other Business

4.1 The Chair noted that, at the next meeting on 29th March 2001, evidence would be taken on the *National Assembly Resource Accounts 1999-2000* and *the General Report of the Auditor General for Wales: Financial Audit of 1999-2000 Accounts*.

4.1 The Chair raised the possibility of holding an evidence session with NHS Trusts on the Clinical Negligence Report at the meeting scheduled for 3rd May.

4.2. The committee raised a query regarding who would take responsibility for liability for civil actions after the disbandment of the Health Authorities. Members queried whether the evidence session with the NHS trusts could be widened to include the disbandment of the Health Authorities. Sir John Bourn advised that advantages lay in concentrating on the report. He offered to provide a note to the Committee on the disbandment of the Health Authorities and the impact upon the National Health Trusts, but advised that it would be difficult to provide an analysis at this stage which the committee could use for an effective evidence session.

4.3 The Committee agreed it did not wish to meet on 3 May if the UK general elections were being held on that date. An alternative date for that meeting would need to be sought. The Chair requested that the Clerk consider this in conjunction with the Business Committee.

4.4 The meeting closed at 4.20pm.