

AUDIT COMMITTEE**MINUTES****Date:** 13 December 2001**Time:** 2.00pm**Venue:** Committee Room 1, National Assembly Building**Attendance****Members**

Janet Davies (Chair)	South Wales West
Lorraine Barrett	Cardiff South and Penarth
Eleanor Burnham	North Wales
Alun Cairns	South Wales West
Jocelyn Davies	South Wales East
Alison Halford	Delyn
Dai Lloyd	South Wales West
Val Lloyd	Swansea East

Officials

Sir John Bourn	Auditor General for Wales
Lew Hughes	Auditor General's Office
Dave Powell	Assembly Compliance Officer
Angela Parkes	Office of the Counsel General

Howell Rees

Committee Clerk

James Owen

Deputy Committee Clerk

Item 1: Evidence-taking Session - The Arts Council of Wales: Centre for Visual Arts

Paper: AC-09-01(p.1)

1. The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. Dai Lloyd substituted for Dafydd Wigley, Lorraine Barrett for Janice Gregory and Eleanor Burnham for Kirsty Williams. Apologies were received from Ann Jones.
2. The Committee held a second evidence session in connection with the report of the National Audit Office on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales on 'The Arts Council of Wales: Centre for Visual Arts', which was published on 15 November 2001.
3. The Chair outlined the Committee's view that it was important to enable those who made the decisions outlined in the Auditor General's report to have the opportunity to put forward their understanding of events.
4. The Auditor General noted that the report was agreed by the current Accounting Officer of the Arts Council of Wales for facts and interpretation according to current auditing conventions. The Permanent Secretary stated that he was unaware of inaccuracies in the evidence presented in the report. The witnesses undertook to make a submission for consideration by the Committee, outlining their reservations on some of the report's findings.
5. A verbatim transcript of this item will be attached as an annex to these minutes.

Witnesses

Robert Edge	Former Director of Lottery Funding at The Arts Council for Wales
Sir Richard Lloyd Jones	Former Chair of The Arts Council for Wales
Emyr Jenkins	Former Executive Officer at The Arts Council for Wales
Joanna Weston	Former Chief Executive and Director of Lottery Funding at The Arts Council for Wales
Jon Shortridge	Permanent Secretary, The National Assembly for Wales

Item 2: Minutes of Previous Meeting

Paper: AC-08-01(min)

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.

Item 3 - Papers to note

Title	Paper reference
Request to give evidence to the Audit Committee - Letter from Sir Richard Lloyd Jones to the Clerk of the Committee	AC-09-01(p.2)
Request to give evidence to the Audit Committee - Letter from Emyr Jenkins to the Clerk of the Committee	AC-09-01(p.3)
Correspondence from Matthew Prichard - Chair of the Trustees of the Centre for Visual Arts	AC-09-01(p.4)
Correspondence from the Arts Council of Wales - Note on Design Interface Costs and main contractor discount at the Centre for Visual Arts	AC-09-01(p.5)
Correspondence from the Arts Council of Wales - Note on information following the Audit Committee meeting on the 22 November 2001.	AC-09-01(p.6)

1. The Committee noted the papers.

The meeting closed at 5.00pm.