

Public Accounts Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 4 – Ty Hywel**

Meeting date: **Thursday, 6 March 2014**

Meeting time: **09.30 – 13.00**

This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

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Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Darren Millar (Chair)
Mike Hedges
Alun Ffred Jones
Julie Morgan
Gwyn R Price
Jenny Rathbone
Aled Roberts

Witnesses:

**Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales, Wales
Audit Office**
Robert Oxley, TaxPayers' Alliance

Committee Staff:

Fay Buckle (Clerk)
Meriel Singleton (Second Clerk)
Claire Griffiths (Deputy Clerk)
Matthew Richards (Legal Advisor)

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed the Members to Committee.

1.2 Apologies were received from Sandy Mewies. Gwyn Price substituted.

2 Papers to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

2.1 Senior Management Pay: Additional information from the Welsh Local Government Association

2.2 Senior Management Pay: Letter from the Permanent Secretary, Welsh Government (21 February 2014)

2.3 Senior Management Pay: Letter from David Sissling (26 February 2014)

2.4 Unscheduled Care: Letter from the Wales Ambulance Services NHS Trust (12 February 2014)

2.5 Hospital Catering and Patient Nutrition: Letter from Professor Jean White (19 February 2014)

3 National Framework for Continuing NHS Healthcare: Consideration of response from the Welsh Government

3.1 The Committee considered and noted the Welsh Government's response to the Committee's report on the National Framework for Continuing NHS Healthcare.

3.2 The Committee agreed that the Chair should write to the Minister for Health and Social Services seeking clarity on a number of issues.

3.3 The Committee noted that the the Wales Audit Office has offered to prepare a memorandum on the progress made on reducing the claims deficit and the launch of the revised framework in the autumn and will then consider whether to undertake an update to the inquiry.

4 Governance Arrangements at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board: Consideration of response from the Welsh Government

4.1 The Committee considered and noted the Welsh Government's response to the Committee's report on the Governance Arrangements at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board.

4.2 The Committee agreed that some of the Government's responses required further clarity and agreed to raise these with the Director General for Health, Social Services and Children.

4.3 The Committee asked for a briefing paper on governance arrangements within NHS Wales and also on specialist health services. The Wales Audit Office agreed to provide this.

5 Senior Management Pay: Evidence session 4

4.1 The Committee questioned Robert Oxley from the Taypayers' Alliance on Senior Management Pay.

4.2 Robert Oxley agreed to provide a copy of the Institute for Fiscal Studies Report on the public sector pay premium and also the article from the Local Government Chronicle he referred to.

4.3 Following the session, the Committee also requested that he provide a reference for his claims about the proportion of people earning between £100k – £150k and more than £150k in Wales.

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business:

6.1 The motion was agreed.

7 Senior Management Pay: Consideration of evidence

7.1 The Committee considered the evidence received and note that the Committee was returning to this issue on 3 April.

7.2 The Committee asked the Clerks to contact the Hay Group requesting details of when a lower remuneration has been suggested for a senior position and any examples of good practice in performance related pay.

8 Consideration of the Wales Audit Office's programme of value for money studies

8.1 The Auditor General for Wales gave a presentation on the current and forthcoming work programmed by the Wales Audit Office.

8.2 The Committee discussed the suggested programme and made a number of suggestions which will be reflected in the final paper.

9 Unscheduled Care: Consideration of draft report

9.1 Due to time constraints, Members considered part of the draft report and will return to this item at a future meeting