

Public Accounts Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 3 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 3 March 2015**

Meeting time: **09.00 – 11.01**

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Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Darren Millar AM (Chair)
Jocelyn Davies AM
William Graham AM
Mike Hedges AM
Sandy Mewies AM
Julie Morgan AM
Jenny Rathbone AM
Aled Roberts AM

Witnesses:

Malcolm Bingham, Freight Transport Association
Simon Higgins, Road Haulage Association Ltd

Committee Staff:

Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk)
Tanwen Summers (Deputy Clerk)
Andrew Minnis (Researcher)
Joanest Varney-Jackson (Legal Adviser)
Jeremy Morgan (Wales Audit Office)
Matthew Mortlock (Wales Audit Office)
Huw Vaughan Thomas (Auditor General for Wales)

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

1.2 There were no apologies.

2 Papers to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

2.2 The Committee agreed to write to Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board to confirm the numbers of staff recruited to consider retrospective cases and to manage ongoing caseloads.

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

3.1 The motion was agreed.

4 Inquiry into value for money of Motorway and Trunk Road Investment: Research Services Briefing

4.1 The Wales Audit Office and the National Assembly for Wales Research Service provided Members with a consultation update and outline inquiry approach.

5 Inquiry into value for money of Motorway and Trunk Road Investment: Evidence Session 1

5.1 The Committee took evidence from the Road Haulage Association Ltd and Freight Transport Association on its inquiry into value for money of Motorway and Trunk Road Investment.

6 Inquiry into value for money of Motorway and Trunk Road Investment: Discussion of evidence

6.2 The Committee considered the evidence received.

6.3 The Committee agreed to:

- request figures on staffing levels and information on around traffic management and resilience arrangements from Trunk Road Agents;
- seek further information from the Welsh Government on major trunk road schemes currently under construction, its approach to prioritisation of future schemes, and greater detail on Trunk Road Agent expenditure, work programmes and future budgets;

- write to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) to request information on managing incidents and the use of screens; and
- write to Highways England seeking information on its approach to maintaining and improving the English Strategic Road Network, including the expected benefits of the new structure and approach, and how this will provide greater certainty in funding.

6.4 Research Service agreed to provide clarification on Trans-European Transport Network (TEN-T) corridors in Wales and the UK and information on Highways England.

7 NHS Wales Health Boards' Governance

7.1 The Committee considered a letter from Professor June Andrews and Mark Butler, and agreed the Chair would write to express the Committee's keenness for her to attend a future meeting.