

Llyr Gruffydd MS
Chair of the Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

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Dear Llyr

Wales Audit Office Supplementary Estimate 2020-21

Thank you for your letter of 19th January 2021 in which you confirmed your support for our Supplementary Estimate proposal and requested that we provide further detail on the estimated value of the 2020-21 annual leave accrual for Audit Wales.

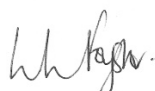
You will recognise that the current financial year has been unprecedented for us all and, like most organisations, our staff have had to adapt to remote working and have found it more difficult to take planned annual leave.

We have continued to stress to staff the importance of taking annual leave when possible for their wellbeing, but, inevitably, our expectation is that staff will accrue more annual leave than would be the case in a normal year.

At the end of 2019-20 the value of accrued annual leave at Audit Wales, as reported in our Annual Report and Accounts, was £521,000 – equivalent to an average of 8.5 days per member of staff. For 2020-21 we expect accrued annual leave balances to increase by around 3 days per member of staff – equivalent to an increased charge to our accounts of £200,000. This increase is a resource adjustment only and does not impact our cash requirement.

As set out in our Supplementary Estimate, this cost has been more than offset by additional income and savings on other budget heads which means we are not seeking any additional funding from the Welsh Consolidated Fund.

Yours sincerely



LINDSAY FOYSTER
Chair, Wales Audit Office



ADRIAN CROMPTON
Auditor General for Wales