



WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

Wales Audit Office / Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru

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Our reference	AJB287/bd
Pages	1 of 2

Dear Mr Jackson-Johns

Re: Caldicot & Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage Board: Audit considerations document

Thank you for your letter dated 3 August 2012. I note your disappointment with the content and draft conclusions of the audit considerations document.

I am sorry that you feel that the document is inaccurate and lacks objectivity. The document was drafted based upon the evidence available to me and the purpose of consulting on the draft was to enable interested persons to correct any factual inaccuracies.

In your letter you have identified 3 areas where you consider that the document is 'inaccurate, unbalanced and misleading'. These areas relate to i) pay awards, ii) redundancy and iii) sea wall case. I have considered your representations in each of these areas but I remain unclear where you consider the draft report is inaccurate or misleading.

In your letter you request a formal response regarding the adequacy of the audit of Caldicot and Wentlooge Levels Internal Drainage Board over the last 10 years. I do not consider that it would be appropriate for me to respond to your question in view of the fact that you are no longer an employee of the Drainage Board. I am intending however to discuss this matter with the Board in due course.



You have requested a response to "the points and questions I raised in my letter of the 26 July as soon as possible." I am not clear which points you require a response to. I will therefore respond in general terms to your letter:

- 1) You have stated that comments you have given were given in confidence and that you "trust this confidence will be retained." My staff did not provide any assurances that statements made by you during interview or in writing would be treated as confidential. Any information that is received whilst undertaking my audit may be used for the purposes of exercising my audit functions, including reporting my audit findings.
- 2) You have raised a number of issues relating to what you consider to be ongoing problems in respect of the Drainage Board. These matters will be taken into consideration in planning my ongoing audit of the Drainage Board and therefore may be included in subsequent audit reports.
- 3) You have raised several questions relating to the behaviours of some former officers and members of the Drainage Board. I acknowledge that the conflict to which you refer is an important context to my findings and this is reflected in my report. However, I have made it clear from the outset of my audit that my remit does not extend to adjudicating in employment disputes.
- 4) I note your statement that the title CEO was only used after the Board agreed and authorised this. I have reviewed the Board minutes and I have found no reference to the Board agreeing or authorising the use of this title. Some members of the Board have told me that the use of the title was not authorised by the Board.
- 5) I have noted your comments regarding sea defences and board restructuring. I do not consider that these comments have a bearing on the factual accuracy of the draft audit considerations document.

Once I have finalised my report, I will send you a copy for your records.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'AJB H'.

Anthony Barrett
Appointed Auditor