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Mr Darren Millar AM  
Chair of the Public Accounts Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Date: 14 March 2014  
Our ref: HVT/2103/fgb  
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Dear Darren

**HIW/WAO FOLLOW-UP REPORT ON CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

I am writing with regard to David Sissling's letter to you of 10 March, in which he sets out the Welsh Government's response to the recommendations in the HIW/WAO follow-up report on Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services.

In his letter, David suggests that the HIW/WAO report was out of date when it was published in December 2013, because it did not take into account developments that had taken place during 2013, since completion of the fieldwork in 2012. To quote from David's letter:

*'.....Further improvements will have also occurred during 2013 which are not reflected in the report, as the fieldwork and evidence gathering occurred during 2012. I attach a copy of a letter dated 4 October 2013 to WAO/HIW in response to their draft report, which provided an update on activity until that point.'*

This statement is incorrect. The 4 October 2013 letter to which David refers was sent in response to our invitation to the Welsh Government to comment on the factual accuracy of the draft report, as part of our normal report clearance process. In requesting comments we had specifically asked the Welsh Government for an update on developments during the time since the fieldwork was completed, and we amended the draft report, as appropriate, to reflect the more recent developments referred to in the 4 October letter. As the relevant accounting officer, on 15 November David formally accepted that the report, as subsequently published, was materially accurate and presented fairly, with no material facts omitted.

I hope this clears up any misunderstanding that might have arisen from the reading of David Sissling's letter of 10 March.

I am copying this letter to Ann Jones, Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee, who was also a copy recipient of David Sissling's 10 March letter.

Yours sincerely



**HUW VAUGHAN THOMAS**  
**AUDITOR GENERAL FOR WALES**

cc Ms Ann Jones, Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee