

Public Accounts Committee

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

Meeting date: **Tuesday, 18 October 2011**

Meeting time: **09: – 11:00**

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Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Darren Millar (Chair)
Mohammad Asghar
Mike Hedges
Julie Morgan
Gwyn Price
Jenny Rathbone
Aled Roberts
Leanne Wood

Witnesses:

Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales, Wales Audit Office
Bernard Galton, Director General, PPCS
Crispin O'Connell, Deputy Director, Places and Services Division
Dame Gillian Morgan, Permanent Secretary, Welsh Government
Paul Dimblebee, Group Director – Performance Audit, WAO

Committee Staff:

Bethan Webber (Clerk)
Daniel Collier (Deputy Clerk)
Joanest Jackson (Legal Advisor)

1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions

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

Items 3 and 4.

3. Update on the Estimate of Income and Expenditure of the WAO for the year ending 31 March 2012

3.1 The Committee discussed the Estimate of Income and Expenditure of the Wales Audit Office for the year ending 31 March 2012.

4. Briefing from the Auditor General for Wales on the Wales Audit Office report on Picture of Public Services 2011

4.1 The Committee received a briefing from the Auditor General for Wales on the Wales Audit Office report, A Picture of Public Services 2011 – The key financial challenges facing Welsh public services.

5. The delivery of ICT services and ICT projects under the Merlin contract: Evidence from The Permanent Secretary

5.1 The Committee welcomed Dame Gillian Morgan, Permanent Secretary; Bernard Galton, Director General for People, Places and Corporate Services; and Crispin O'Connell, Deputy Director, Places and Services Division.

5.2 The Committee also welcomed Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales and Paul Dimblebee, Group Director – Performance Audit, Wales Audit Office.

5.3 The Committee questioned the witnesses.

Action points:

The Welsh Government agreed to provide:

- Details on the 298 different suppliers used outside the Merlin contract, including the number of those suppliers who are based in Wales.
- Further information on savings made by avoiding disallowance, including how Value for Money was demonstrated and any reputational issues.

6. Papers to note

6.1 The Committee noted the papers and ratified the minutes of the previous meeting.

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).