

Finance Committee

Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 2 – Senedd**

Meeting date: **Thursday, 5 March 2015**

Meeting time: **09.00 – 12.26**

This meeting can be viewed on [Senedd TV](http://senedd.tv/en/2683) at:
<http://senedd.tv/en/2683>

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

Assembly Members:

Jocelyn Davies AM (Chair)
Christine Chapman AM
Mike Hedges AM
Ann Jones AM
Julie Morgan AM
Nick Ramsay AM
William Powell AM

Witnesses:

Andrew Jeffreys, Welsh Government
Andrew Hewitt, Welsh Government
Nicholas Paines, Law Commission
David Connolly, Law Commission
Tom Frawley, Northern Ireland Ombudsman

Committee Staff:

Bethan Davies (Clerk)
Leanne Hatcher (Second Clerk)
Tanwen Summers (Deputy Clerk)
Martin Jennings (Researcher)
Richard Bettley (Researcher)
Joanest Varney-Jackson (Legal Adviser)

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies were received from Peter Black AM and Alun Ffred Jones AM.

1.3 The Chair welcomed William Powell AM who was substitute for Peter Black AM.

2 Papers to note

2.1 The papers were noted.

(In accordance with Standing Order 17.42, the Committee resolves to meet in private for items 3, 4, 5 and 6)

3 Initial Consideration of Local Government (Wales) Bill

3.1 The Committee considered the financial implications of the Local Government (Wales) Bill.

3.2 The Committee agreed to invite the Minister for Public Services to provide evidence on the Local Government (Wales) Bill and write to all local authorities who expressed an interest in voluntary merger for information on the costs of putting together the business cases.

4 Consideration of the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office Annual Plan 2015–2016

4.1 The Committee considered correspondence regarding the proposals to incorporate the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office Annual Plan 2015–2016 into a three year business plan. The Committee agreed to respond in writing requesting an annual plan continue to be completed as required by the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013.

5 Assembly Commission Corporate Performance – April–December 2014

5.1 The Committee considered the Assembly Commissions Corporate Performance report for April to December 2014.

5.2 The Committee noted the report and agreed to write to Claire Clancy for further information.

6 Land Transaction Tax: Factual Briefing from Welsh Government

6.1 The Welsh Government briefed the Committee on Land Transaction Tax.

7 Consideration of powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales:

Evidence session 5

7.1 The Committee took evidence from the Law Commission on its inquiry into the Consideration of Powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

8 Consideration of powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales:

Evidence session 6

8.1 The Committee took evidence from the Northern Ireland Ombudsman on its inquiry into the Consideration of Powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

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

9.1 The motion was agreed.

10 Consideration of powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales:

Discussion of Evidence

10.1 The Committee considered the evidence received.