

Huw Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General for Wales

Isobel Garner
Chair, Wales Audit Office

5 June 2015

Dear Huw and Isobel

Auditor General for Wales and Wales Audit Office Annual Plan 2015–16

I am writing further to the meeting of 21 May 2015 where the Finance Committee considered the Annual Plan for 2015–16.

At the meeting you agreed to provide additional information in three areas:

- how many requests do you get from AMs to investigate bodies in a year;
- a copy of the analysis you mentioned you have undertaken following on from good practice events; and
- you also agreed to highlight to Members prior to this year’s budget round your latest work carried out in relation to the preventative agenda in the NHS.

In addition to this, Members had some queries which we would appreciate your views on.

The Committee is aware that in 2013–14 the Wales Audit Office were provided with additional resource of £250,000 to allow the Auditor General to undertake unplanned reviews into issues of public concern, without having an impact on the organisation’s ability to deliver pre-planned national studies.

Members would like some clarification on how the Auditor General decides how to spend this additional resource. Members would find it helpful if you were able to outline the criteria used to initiate an unplanned investigation and the cost of each investigation undertaken to date, using this additional £250,000.



The Committee would also be interested to know an estimate of the cost to bodies, including staff time, each year for both routine audit, and your view on the cost to an organisation that is subject to an unplanned investigation (using this additional resource to undertake that work).

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jocelyn Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jocelyn Davies AM
Chair

