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7 December 2015

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Dear Jocelyn

Finance Committee's legacy – Expert advisers

Thank you for the opportunity to reflect on my experience as adviser to the Committee. As you know, in addition to being adviser, CIPFA had also been appointed to provide Learning and Development support to the Assembly, for both members and officials. This was a unique combination but offered significant benefit in terms of the scrutiny which the Finance Committee undertook.

From my perspective, the benefit of the Committee having an adviser was that it allowed me to provide a financial scrutiny framework which extends from budgeting scrutiny, to in-year inquiries, through to the end of year financial position. I was pleased with how receptive the Committee was to the framework and its willingness to use the framework in its final Budget report.

If the Committee continued to use the framework of financial scrutiny in terms of impact, I think the Committee has the potential to hold Government to account for delivering value for money.

In light of the Committee having the finance scrutiny framework, the role of any further adviser would have to focus on supporting the Committee to identifying appropriate questioning under the given principles so perhaps, as you say, specialist areas.

I personally found the Committee to be very engaged and supportive and receptive to my ideas and suggestions.

ANGELA SCOTT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE



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The nature of the Assembly Business demands extremely short notice for production of materials for the Committee and this was challenging as an external partner. The clerks to the Committee were all very helpful and proved a useful sounding board. The relationship between the clerk and an adviser is critical, particularly in terms of being clear about who does what and when.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience as an adviser and would highly recommend it to others. I hope you and the Committee are continuing to ask tough questions!

Best wishes to everyone.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Angela Scott', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Angela Scott
Chief Executive