

18 December 2019

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on the draft Public Audit (Amendment) (Wales) Bill

This consultation sets out the Finance Committee's draft legislative proposals to amend the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013.

The draft Public Audit (Amendment) (Wales) Bill proposes to amend the [Public Audit \(Wales\) Act 2013](#) (PAWA 2013) in relation to:

- Fee charging
- Quorum arrangements of the Wales Audit Office (WAO) Board
- WAO reporting arrangements
- Issues with laying reports and accounts
- Certification deadlines
- Issues relating to the responsibilities of the National Assembly for Wales (the Assembly).

Background

The PAWA 2013, which became law in Wales on 29 April 2013, aimed to strengthen and improve the accountability and governance arrangements relating to the Auditor General for Wales (AGW) and the WAO whilst protecting the AGW's independence and objectivity.

The Finance Committee (the Committee) undertook post-legislative scrutiny of the PAWA 2013 in March 2019, focussing on issues raised by the AGW and WAO and other aspects of the PAWA 2013 that could benefit from revision.

The Committee concluded that revisions to the PAWA 2013 are required and agreed to consult on this draft Bill.

Further details can be found in the attached consultation document and on the Assembly's website:

<http://senedd.assembly.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?lId=27117>.

Invitation to contribute to the consultation

The Committee welcomes evidence from those with an interest in this subject.



If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief description of the role of your organisation.

The National Assembly for Wales has two official languages, Welsh and English. In line with the Assembly's Official Languages Scheme, the Committee requests that documents or written responses to consultations intended for publication or use in National Assembly proceedings are submitted bilingually. When documents or written responses are not submitted bilingually, we will publish in the language submitted, stating that it has been received in that language only.

We expect other organisations to implement their own standards or schemes and to comply with their statutory obligations.

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission to: seneddfinance@assembly.wales.

Alternatively, you can write to:

Committee Clerk
Finance Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by **7 February 2020**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date. [Guidance](#) for those providing evidence for committees is available.

We would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the letter to any individuals or organisations that might like to contribute to the consultation. A copy of this letter has been placed on the Assembly's website with an open invitation to submit views.

Disclosure of Information

The Assembly's [policy on disclosure of information](#) is available, please ensure that you have considered these details carefully before submitting information to the Committee. Alternatively, a hard copy of this policy can be requested by contacting the Clerk (Bethan Davies seneddfinance@assembly.wales).

Yours faithfully,



Llyr Gruffydd AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

