

9^{fed} Llawr
Eastgate House
35-43 Ffordd Casnewydd
Caerdydd
CF24 0AB



9th Floor
Eastgate House
35-43 Newport Road
Cardiff
CF24 0AB

Ffôn: 029 20460099
Ffacs: 029 20475850

Tel: 029 20460099
Fax: 029 20475850

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

3rd February 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

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

We are writing in response to the above National Assembly consultation.

Role of our organisation

The Education Workforce Council (EWC) is an independent regulator, established by the Education (Wales) Act 2014. We came into being on 1 April 2015 and work with education professionals, in teaching and support roles, from the foundation phase through to further education, youth work and work-based learning. The EWC's role as a regulator and strategic leader in the education sector in Wales and the obligations that we have to registrants, learners, parents and the public is formally prescribed within the Education (Wales) Act 2014.

Proposed amendments in relation to the WAO functions and responsibilities

We have no comments to make in relation to the consultation questions contained within sections 1-9 of the consultation document.

Section 10: Issues with wider public audit legislation in Wales

EWC are listed under paragraph 64 as one of the bodies where legislation would need to be amended to include a provision for the requirement to have a regularity opinion from the Auditor General for Wales (AGW) as part of our annual audit opinion. Even though there is no explicit provision for this opinion in legislation, this is already provided by the AGW on an annual basis as part of the EWC annual audit opinion and is included in our audit Annual Report and Accounts.

EWC **would not** support for legislation to be amended to include this requirement for the following reasons:

The EWC is an independent professional body. It is not a Welsh Government sponsored body, does not have a sponsoring department within government and does not receive an annual remit letter. The Council's primary role is to regulate the education workforce professions in Wales. This regulatory model, like most other professions is one of "self-regulation" rather than one which is controlled and funded by central government.

The Council sets its own strategic / operational plans and its own budget. The Welsh Government does not exercise any control of the day to day running of the EWC in discharging its statutory functions and EWC resources are not 'voted' through the National Assembly.

Finally, EWC is currently challenging our public body classification with Welsh Government and the ONS. Therefore whilst this challenge is ongoing, it would be improper for any changes to our legislation to be made.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hayden Llewellyn', written in a cursive style.

Hayden Llewellyn
Chief Executive