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Ein Cyfeirnod/Our Reference

Eich Cyfeirnod/Your Reference

Dyddiad/Date 5 July 2004

Dear Siwan,

Welsh Assembly Government's response to the recommendations of the Audit Committee report *Renewal of Private Sector Housing in Wales*

Thank you for your letter of 18 June asking for advice on the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the recommendations made by the Audit Committee in its report *Renewal of Private Sector Housing in Wales*.

The Welsh Assembly Government has responded positively and accepted all nine of the Committee's recommendations. In particular, the Committee might wish to note the responses to recommendations vi and vii which deal with two areas it considered important: fraud and disabled facilities grants respectively. On the latter, for example, the Government reports that disabled facilities grants are being covered in the review of housing adaptations that is now underway.

As the Committee reported, central to the success of the new arrangements for private sector housing renewal is effective collaboration with local authorities. In this context, the response to recommendation iv reports that the Assembly's Housing Directorate is in the process of arranging seminars with local authorities to consider progress with local renewal policies and to identify good practice.

There is no need for the Committee to take further action at this point. Two recommendations, i and ix, require the Government to update the Committee on the outcome of the current national housing survey, *Living in Wales*, and on the progress it is making on managing the risks identified in the Auditor General's original report. We will advise the Committee further when it has received these updates.

I hope that you find this response helpful.

Yours sincerely

HELEN KIRKBY
Private Secretary to the Auditor General for Wales