



WALES AUDIT OFFICE  

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SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

# Value for money examinations and other work to be presented to the Audit Committee

31 January 2007

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## Value for money examinations

1. At its meeting on 12 October 2006, the Audit Committee approved my estimate of income and expenses for the financial year 2007/2008 and considered my proposals for new value for money examinations [AC(2)-09-06(p2)]. I am grateful to Committee members for their views and I am now in a position to update the Committee on my plans for value for money and other work across the central government sector and the NHS, including my decisions on the new examinations that I have added to the plans (Annex 1).
2. As I explained to the Committee when presenting my draft proposals, these value for money examinations have been selected, and are being designed, specifically to address the five core themes that I have identified from my three-year strategy for the work of the Wales Audit Office, namely:
  - examining how partnerships and collaborative working can be improved to maximise benefits to the public;
  - improving the quality of financial and performance management generally and in the NHS specifically;
  - facilitating whole systems thinking and responses;
  - strengthening corporate governance and tackling fraud; and
  - identifying, evaluating and helping public services introduce good practice.
3. Annex 3 sets out the extent to which the individual examinations listed in Annexes 1 and 2 will address these themes. In doing so, I am confident that this work, alongside the totality of my financial and value for money audit work across the public sector in Wales, will make a significant contribution in delivering the overall mission statement of the Wales Audit Office to *'promote improvement, so that people in Wales benefit from accountable, well-managed public services that offer the best possible value for money'*.
4. Members will see that, having taken account of their views and following further consultation with officials from the Welsh Assembly Government's (Assembly Government) Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, I have decided to bring forward an examination of the education of looked after children. As a consequence, I have deferred my proposed examination of the Teacher Workload Agreement.
5. As the Committee is aware, in drawing up a list of examinations that I plan to carry out, it is important to retain a strong degree of flexibility to respond to changing circumstances, priorities and risks. For example, members will see that Annex 1 includes reference to my examination of arrangements for the provision of home oxygen supplies, which I have undertaken in response to correspondence.

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6. In the coming year, there is an additional need for flexibility to take account of changes in circumstances that may arise in the light of any significant policy or expenditure changes that follow the forthcoming National Assembly elections. Changes in the membership of the Committee following the elections may also give rise to new concerns and I would, of course, seek to respond appropriately to such issues.

**Jeremy Colman**

**Auditor General for Wales**

31 January 2007

## Annex 1. Current status of the examinations

Title of examination	Current status <sup>a</sup>
Increasing physical activity and its benefits	Clearance
Support for the LG projects, Newport	Clearance
Collections management at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales ( <i>follow-up</i> )	Drafting
Arrangements for the provision of home oxygen supplies	Drafting
RAF St Athan and the Red Dragon project ( <i>in collaboration with the National Audit Office</i> )	Drafting
Arts Council of Wales: capital projects	Drafting
The Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme	Drafting
The new General Medical Services contract	Drafting
Hospital acquired infection	Fieldwork ongoing
Chronic disease management	Fieldwork ongoing
Procurement of the new building for the National Assembly for Wales	Fieldwork ongoing
Review of NHS Finances in Wales	Fieldwork ongoing
General report on financial audit in central government and the NHS	Fieldwork ongoing
Higher education institution mergers and collaboration	Scoping
Regional Selective Assistance	Scoping
Flood risk management	Scoping
Child and adolescent mental health services ( <i>in partnership with Healthcare Inspectorate Wales</i> )	Scoping
Integrated transport	Scoping
Sustainable development – business decision making	To be started
Capital investment in schools	To be started
Wales Millennium Centre	To be started
Informing healthcare – developing new technology to record and keep information about patients and their health	To be started
Communities First	To be started
Emergency planning – Civil Contingencies Act	To be started
Education of looked after children	To be started
Management of NHS capital investment programmes	To be started
NHS: management of sickness absence ( <i>follow-up</i> )	To be started
Finance Wales – encouraging innovation and growth in small and medium sized businesses	To be started
Operations of the Forestry Commission Wales	To be started

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Title of examination	Current status <sup>a</sup>
Adult mental health services ( <i>follow-up</i> )	To be started

**Note**

<sup>a</sup> Clearance refers to the stage of our work when, ahead of publication, I seek the views of audited bodies and third parties on the factual accuracy of my draft reports and the fairness and balance of their presentation.

## Annex 2. Alignment of individual projects with the key strategic themes of the Wales Audit Office

Title of examination	A	B	C	D	E
A. Examining how partnerships and collaborative working can be improved to maximise benefits to the public;					
B. Improving the quality of financial and performance management;					
C. Facilitating whole systems thinking and responses;					
D. Strengthening corporate governance and tackling fraud; and					
E. Identifying, evaluating and helping public services introduce good practice.					
Increasing physical activity and its benefits	✓	✓	✓		✓
Support for the LG project	✓	✓			✓
Collections management at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales ( <i>follow-up</i> )		✓			✓
Arrangements for the provision of home oxygen supplies	✓	✓			✓
RAF St Athan and the Red Dragon project	✓	✓			
Arts Council of Wales: capital projects	✓	✓			✓
The Tir Gofal agri-environment scheme	✓	✓			
The new General Medical Services contract		✓		✓	✓
Hospital acquired infection	✓				✓
Chronic disease management	✓		✓		✓
Procurement of the new building for the National Assembly for Wales		✓		✓	✓
Review of NHS Finances in Wales		✓		✓	✓
General report on financial audit in central government and the NHS		✓		✓	✓
Higher education institution mergers and collaboration	✓				✓
Regional Selective Assistance	✓	✓			✓
Flood risk management	✓		✓		✓
Child and adolescent mental health services	✓		✓		✓
Integrated transport	✓		✓		✓
Sustainable development – business decision making			✓		✓
Capital investment in schools		✓			✓
Wales Millennium Centre	✓	✓			✓

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<p>A. Examining how partnerships and collaborative working can be improved to maximise benefits to the public;</p> <p>B. Improving the quality of financial and performance management;</p> <p>C. Facilitating whole systems thinking and responses;</p> <p>D. Strengthening corporate governance and tackling fraud; and</p> <p>E. Identifying, evaluating and helping public services introduce good practice.</p>					
<b>Title of examination</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>
Informing healthcare		✓		✓	
Communities First	✓	✓			✓
Emergency planning – Civil Contingencies Act	✓		✓		✓
Education of looked after children	✓		✓		✓
Management of NHS capital investment programmes		✓	✓		✓
NHS: management of sickness absence ( <i>follow-up</i> )		✓		✓	✓
Finance Wales	✓	✓			✓
Operations of the Forestry Commission Wales	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Adult mental health services ( <i>follow-up</i> )	✓		✓		✓





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