

Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol-Oes



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: JD-05547-03

Janet Davies AM
Chair – Audit Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

12 AUG 2003

9 August 2003

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 18 July about the Welsh Assembly Government's response to the Audit Committee's report on the National Council's accounts to 31 March 2002.

I believe that the Assembly Government's response will be perceived as a wholly committed reply to the Committee's recommendations. The importance and value that the Assembly Government attaches to the recommendations is demonstrated by the Permanent Secretary's action in writing so widely to the Accounting Officers of Assembly funded public bodies and all senior managers in the National Assembly on the day of the publication of the Assembly Government response. I welcome the endorsement of the action taken and I am aware that the letter and enclosures has already been considered by at least one Assembly sponsored public body's audit committee.

I am happy to confirm that the Assembly Government will implement all of the Committee's recommendations as quickly as possible. As the response makes clear, action on a significant number have already been completed or progressed. The Assembly Corporate Governance Committee will monitor progress in the normal way.

I can also confirm that the lessons arising from the National Council's accounts will be given a very high priority in the framework of consultative meetings established by the Principal Accounting Officer with Assembly sponsored public bodies (ASPBs). The issues covered in his letter of 20 May were discussed at a meeting with ASPB Finance Officers held on 10 July. They will also be an important part of the agenda for a meeting



of ASPB sponsor divisions to be chaired by the Assembly Principal Finance Officer in September; and a meeting between the Principal Accounting Officer and his ASPB colleagues planned for October. The sponsor division meeting in particular will consider the most effective ways of engaging staff at all levels of ASPBs.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Jane'.

Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning