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Ein Cyfeirnod/Our Reference **JBB/1794/03**

Eich Cyfeirnod/Your Reference

Dyddiad/Date 5 September 2003

Der Bhair,

MINISTERIAL RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS ON MATTERS UNDER AUDIT INVESTIGATION

When the Audit Committee met on 17 July 2003, shortly before the Assembly Summer Recess, I undertook to prepare a short note for the Committee's September meeting. This was in response to members' concerns regarding any restrictions that might exist on the ability of Assembly Ministers to respond to questions on topics that are the subject of any ongoing external audit investigation by my office.

As I explained verbally at the July meeting, there is no formal protocol which disbars the Welsh Assembly Government from responding to questions from Assembly Members in respect of matters that are the subject of an investigation by myself and the National Audit Office Wales. This mirrors the position in the Westminster Parliament and it is, of course, for Government members to determine the content of the answers that they give in response to Assembly Members' questions.

I do hope that this clarification is of assistance to the Committee. I am copying this letter to the Assembly Compliance Officer.

*Yours sincerely,
John Bourn*

JOHN BOURN

