NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES
EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

QUINQUENNIAL REVIEW OF THE QUALIFICATIONS, CURRICULUM AND ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY FOR WALES (ACCAC)

Report from the Reviewers, July 2003

Review of action to date

The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning announced on 27th April 2003 that she had commissioned Open Đirection Ltd to undertake the Quinquennial Review of ACCAC following consultation with the then Finance Minister and the Assembly's Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.

The Review was to be overseen by a Steering Group convened by Financial Planning Division of the Welsh Assembly Government. That Group has met twice so far.

Consultation

As part of the evidence gathering process for the Review, we are undertaking a wide-ranging consultation with ACCAC's stakeholders and partners. In support of this a detailed Consultation Document was agreed by the Steering Group in early May, together with a representative list of prospective consultees. Members have a copy of that Consultation Document with their Committee papers.

Some 342 hard copies of the Consultation Document were distributed during May, together with a further 26 electronic copies subsequently.

In addition to this, ACCAC has placed a copy of the document on its own web-site, as has the Federation of Awarding Bodies. The National Assembly's web-site now contains a hot link across to the document.

ACCAC has sent a letter from Open Đirection Ltd to the Headteacher or Principal of 2065 schools and colleges in Wales, as follows:

1,653	Primary Schools
228	Secondary Schools
51	Special Schools
30	Pupil Referral Units
28	FE & Technical Colleges
43	Independent Primary Schools
32	Independent Secondary Schools

and also to a further 283 Training Providers.

The Consultation Document and on-line questionnaires are available on the www.accacreview.info and www.adolygiadaccac.info web-sites.

Engagement with ACCAC

We have engaged actively with the Chairman and Members of the Authority, and the Chief Executive and staff of ACCAC.

We have attended a number of meetings of Authority Committees and working groups and have interviewed the Chairman and Chief Executive. We have also attended an ACCAC Staff Away Day which focussed on communication, equal opportunities and team working.

Other meetings scheduled

We are scheduled to meet the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning, the Sponsor Division and other Divisions within the Assembly's Training and Education Department. We have interviewed both the Authority's Internal and External Auditors and will interview certain other key stakeholders during July.

Responses to the Consultation

At the time of writing we have received 28 formal responses to the Consultation Document and just 4 responses to the web-based questionnaire. These have been helpful, but at this stage of the Review it is not yet possible to draw any firm conclusions.

We have also contacted some fifty prospective respondents by telephone, reminding them of the importance of the Review and asking them to ensure that they respond to us by 11th July. The priority given to these respondents has been agreed with the Steering Group.

The Committee's View

We would find it very helpful if Members were to offer thoughts in particular on the two key questions "Are the functions which ACCAC currently performs still necessary?" and "Should they be undertaken by an Assembly Sponsored Public Body?"

Professor Steve Bristow
Gari Lewis
Alasdair MacLaughlin

Open Đirection Ltd
2nd July 2003

CYNULLIAD CENEDLAETHOL CYMRU

ADOLYGIAD PUM MLYNEDD O AWDURDOD CWRICWLWM AC ASESU CYMRU (ACCAC)

Adroddiad gan yr Adolygwyr, Gorffennaf 2003

Adolygiad o weithgareddau hyd yma

Cyhoeddodd Gweinidog Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes ar Ebrill 27[ain] ei bod wedi comisiynyu Open Đirection Cyf i gyflawni'r Adolygiad Pum Mlynedd o ACCAC yn dilyn ymgynghori â'r Gweinidog Cyllid ar y pryd a Phwyllgor Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes y Cynulliad.

Goruchwylir yr Arolygiad gan Grŵp Llywio a gynullir gan Is-Adran Cynllunio Ariannol Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Mae'r grŵp wedi cyfarfod ddwywaith hyd yma.

Ymgynghoriad

Fel rhan o'r broses casglu tystiolaeth ar gyfer yr Adolygiad, rydym yn cynnal ymgynghoriad pell-gyrhaeddol gyda budd-ddeiliaid a phartneriaid ACCAC. Er mwyn cefnogi'r broses hon, cytunwyd ar Ddogfen Ymgynghori fanwl gan y Grŵp Llywio yn gynnar ym mis Mai, ynghyd â rhestr o'r rhai y dylid ymgynghori â hwy. Mae gan Aelodau gopi o'r Ddogfen Ymgynghori gyda'u papurau Pwyllgor.

Dosbarthwyd rhyw 342 o gopïau caled o'r Ddogfen Ymgynghori yn ystod mis Mai, a 26 o gopïau electronig wedi hynny.

Yn ychwanegol at hyn, mae ACCAC wedi gosod copi o'r ddogfen ar ei wefan, fel y mae Ffederasiwn Cyrff Dyfarnu. Mae gan wefan y Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ddolen gyswllt draw i'r ddogfen hon.

Mae ACCAC wedi danfon llythyr gan Open Đirection Cyf at Bennaeth 2065 o ysgolion a cholegau Cymru fel a ganlyn:

1,653 o Ysgolion Cynradd
228 o Ysgolion Uwchradd
51 o Ysgolion Arbennig
30 o Unedau Cyfeirio Disgyblion
28 o Golegau AB a Thechnegol
43 o Ysgolion Cynradd Annibynnol
32 o Ysgolion Uwchradd Annibynnol

a hefyd at 283 o Ddarparwyr Hyfforddiant.

Mae'r Ddogfen Ymgynghori a'r holiaduron ar-lein ar gael ar wefannau www.accacreview.info a www.adolygiadaccac.info.

Ymwneud ag ACCAC

Rydym wedi ymwneud yn aml â Chadeirydd ac Aelodau o'r Awdurdod, a Phrif Weithredwr a staff ACCAC.

Rydym wedi mynychu nifer o gyfarfodydd o Bwyllgorau'r Awdurdod a grwpiau gwaith ac wedi cynnal cyfweliadau gyda'r Cadeirydd a'r Prif Weithredwr. Rydym hefyd wedi bod yn bresennol yn Niwrnod Cynhadledd Staff ACCAC a roddai sylw i gyfathrebu, cyfleon cyfartal a gweithio mewn tîm.

Cyfarfodydd eraill a drefnwyd

Trefnwyd i ni gyfarfod â'r Gweinidog Addysg a Dysgu Gydol Oes, yr Is-Adran sy'n Noddi'r Adolygiad ac Is-Adrannau eraill o fewn Adran Addysg a Hyfforddiant y Cynulliad. Rydym wedi cyfweld ag Archwilwyr Mewnol ac Allanol yr Awdurdod a byddwn yn sicr o fod wedi cyfweld â phrif fudd-ddeiliaid eraill yn ystod Mis Gorffennaf.

Ymatebion i'r Ymgynghoriad

Ar adeg ysgrifennu'r adroddiad hwn, rydym wedi derbyn 28 o ymatebion ffurfiol i'r Ddogfen Ymgynghori a dim ond 4 o ymatebion i'r holiadur ar y wefan. Mae'r rhain yn ddefnyddiol, ond nid yw'n bosibl eto, ar yr adeg yma o'r Adolygiad, i dynnu unrhyw gasgliadau pendant.

Rydym hefyd wedi cysylltu drwy'r ffôn â rhyw hanner cant o ymatebwyr posibl, gan eu hatgoffa o bwysigrwydd yr Adolygiad a gofyn iddynt sicrhau y byddant yn ymateb erbyn Gorffennaf 11eg. Cytunwyd ar roi blaenoriaeth i'r rhain gyda'r Grŵp Llywio.

Barn y Pwyllgor

Byddai o gymorth mawr i ni pe bai Aelodau yn cynnig eu meddyliau yn arbennig ar y ddau brif gwestiwn "A oes angen o hyd am y swyddogaethau a gyflawnir gan ACCAC?" ac "A ddylent gael eu cyflawni gan Gorff Cyhoeddus a Noddir gan y Cynulliad?"

Yr Athro Steve Bristow
Gari Lewis
Alasdair MacLaughlin

Open Đirection Cyf
Gorffennaf 2il 2003