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## Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

**Date:** 19 November 2003

**Title:** Interim Report on the Quinquennial Review of the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales

### Purpose

1. To consult the Committee on the Interim Report on the Quinquennial Review of the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales.

### Recommendation

2. That the Committee comments on the findings of the Report at Annex A and on whether the Terms of Reference for the second stage (see Interim Report Appendix 3) need amending.

### Background

3. The Quinquennial Review of the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales was formally commissioned by the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and the then Finance Minister in April following consultation with Committee on the Terms of Reference. The Review is being carried out by Open Direction and their Interim Report covers the first stage of the Review. This addresses the question:

‘In the light of the statutory duties and functions of the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales, the objectives of the National Assembly and models of good practice elsewhere, is there a continuing need for all the functions of Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales and, if so, is the current organisational framework for delivering those functions the most appropriate?’

### The Interim Report

4. The Interim Report is attached. It sets out the reviewer’s findings following a wide-ranging consultation with stakeholders and partners as well as with the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales itself. The executive summary is at pages 2 to 4 with a summary of

recommendations at pages 23 and 24.

## **Compliance**

5. The Review has been undertaken in accordance with the published Quinquennial Review guidelines. In addition to its participation in the Review, the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales has been consulted on all matters of fact.

## **Action for Committee**

6. The Committee is invited to discuss and comment on the reviewer's report before Ministers consider it further.

7. In the light of the Interim Report's findings, the Committee is also asked to comment on whether the Terms of Reference need amending for the second stage of the Review.

8. Following receipt of the Committee's views, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning and the Finance Minister will come to a view on the Report's main findings. They will determine whether the Review should proceed to its second stage (looking at performance issues including the Authority's strategic effectiveness and its corporate governance) and whether the Terms of Reference need to be adjusted.

## **Contact point**

9. Financial Planning Division.