



Ms Jocelyn Davies AM
Chair, Finance Committee
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Dear Jocelyn

Revised transport arrangements for Wales Audit Office staff

I refer to your Committee's report of January 2015 following scrutiny of the Baker Tilly Fleet Report.

I am pleased to advise that we have now concluded the review of transport arrangements for staff and, from 1 April this year, will be introducing a new Travel Scheme to replace current arrangements. Extensive consultation has taken place with staff and our trade union partners and included a Task and Finish group and detailed review of proposals by both management and the Board's Remuneration Committee. Whilst a lengthy process, it has had the benefit of us reaching a position where the revised arrangements, which represent a contractual change in terms and conditions for staff, have received majority support through the unions' ballots and can now be implemented through collective agreement.

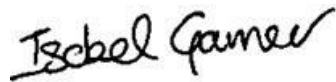
The new Travel Scheme delivers a range of benefits that balance the need for cost reduction, efficiency and effectiveness, corporate social responsibility and environmental impacts. Specifically, the new scheme will provide the following benefits:

- Financial savings of circa £125,000 per annum following full implementation;
- Enhanced governance arrangements around eligibility to the scheme;
- Enhanced value for money measures around the overall cost/benefit of the scheme, including environmental impact;
- The ending of our own lease car scheme, instead working in collaboration with the NHS to facilitate access to its established lease scheme which is open to all public bodies.

Our new Travel Scheme has benefited from a full equality impact assessment and provides for improved arrangements for part-time staff and more transparent arrangements for those requiring reasonable adjustments.

I trust the Committee will find this update helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Isobel Garner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'I' and a long, sweeping underline.

Isobel Garner
Chair, Board of the Wales Audit Office