

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Public Accounts Committee

Accounting, governance and propriety  
issues at the Wales Audit Office

March 2011



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## Public Accounts Committee

The Public Accounts Committee ensures that proper and thorough scrutiny is given to Welsh Government expenditure, and that all public bodies in Wales operate to the highest possible standards in the management of their financial affairs. It does this so that the people of Wales can be confident that their money is being spent wisely and well.

Information on the Committee, its membership, its remit and previous publications can be found at: [www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-ac-home.htm](http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-ac-home.htm)

## Powers

The Committee was established on 26 June 2007. Its powers are set out in the National Assembly for Wales's Standing Orders, particularly SO 13. These are available at [www.assemblywales.org](http://www.assemblywales.org).

## Committee Membership



**Darren Millar  
(Chair)**  
Clwyd West  
Welsh Conservative Party



**Lorraine Barrett**  
Cardiff South and Penarth  
Labour



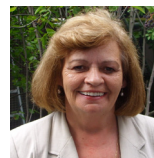
**Peter Black**  
South Wales West  
Welsh Liberal Democrats



**Jeff Cuthbert**  
Caerphilly  
Labour



**Alun Davies**  
Mid and West Wales  
Labour



**Irene James**  
Islwyn  
Labour



**Bethan Jenkins**  
South Wales West  
Plaid Cymru



**Sandy Mewies**  
Delyn  
Labour



**Jonathan Morgan**  
Cardiff North  
Welsh Conservative Party



**Janet Ryder**  
North Wales  
Plaid Cymru

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## The Committee's Recommendations

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The Committee's recommendations to the Auditor General for Wales are listed below in the order that they appear in this Report. Please refer to the relevant pages of the report to see the supporting evidence and conclusions:

To remedy the failings that occurred in previous financial statements we recommend that:

- the Wales Audit Office should seek an updated accounts direction from the Treasury to reflect the passing of the Government of Wales Act 2006, the establishment of the Welsh Consolidated Fund, and the statutory requirement for expenditure by the Wales Audit Office to be authorised by a budget motion of the Assembly;
- the 2010-11 accounts should comply fully with the revised accounts direction and the Financial Reporting Manual taking account of all the previous accounting and reporting issues raised by the National Audit Office and others;
- in particular, the 2009-10 comparative figures to be shown in the 2010-11 accounts should be restated with a note confirming the excess expenditure for that year. It is for the Auditor General to decide how and over what period the resulting negative reserves should be restored but his plans for doing so should also be disclosed. (Page 10)

We recommend that the Auditor General provides us with assurance that he will consider referring any matters of potential professional misconduct that emerge on the part of Wales Audit Office staff to the relevant professional body. (Page 20)

# 1. Introduction

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1.1 We, the Public Accounts Committee, and our predecessors have always had the highest regard for the work of the Wales Audit Office. Its financial and value for money work has ensured that public sector bodies in Wales have, where necessary, been properly held to account for the management of public funds entrusted to their care. Sound independent and objective public audit is an essential pre-requisite to a healthy democracy.

1.2 Unfortunately, the good reputation of the Wales Audit Office and the exceptionally good work that has and continues to be produced by its staff has been overshadowed over the past year by the actions of Jeremy Colman, the former Auditor General for Wales, and others. Aside from Mr Colman's conviction for making and possessing indecent images (child pornography) whilst in office, we have been obliged to consider other aspects of his conduct, failures to prepare accounts for the Wales Audit Office that comply fully with the required financial reporting standards, issues of propriety, and failure to uphold the high standards of governance that the National Assembly for Wales ('the Assembly') and the public have a right to expect from such an organisation. These serious governance failures have led to reputational damage being inflicted on the office of Auditor General and the Wales Audit Office, and, more broadly, can only have undermined confidence in the public sector in Wales.

1.3 This report addresses the failings that have occurred, and the steps that need to be taken to ensure that such failings can never occur again. We hope that its conclusions and recommendations start to draw a line under the accounting, governance and propriety concerns that developed during Mr Colman's term of office and that were brought to light over the past year.

1.4 We take great assurance from the forthright, open and transparent way in which the present Auditor General for Wales ('the Auditor General') is dealing with the difficult issues he has inherited. Whilst we are disappointed that much of the first six months he has had in office have been overshadowed by the failings of Mr Colman, we are confident that the action he is taking, alongside our own actions and recommendations, will lead to a stronger and improved future for public audit in Wales.

1.5 Our findings set out in this report are based on the evidence presented to us. This includes oral evidence from Mr Anthony Snow<sup>1</sup> and a written

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<sup>1</sup> RoP 23 March 2011



submission from Mr Jeremy Colman.<sup>2</sup> A schedule of the evidence is provided as an annex to this report. We would have welcomed the opportunity to hear from Mr Colman personally, and we believe that it would have been possible for practical arrangements to have been made for that to occur. In his letter to the Committee Mr Colman sets out his reasons why he did not feel it appropriate to take up the Committee's invitation to give evidence in person. These are based on his criticisms of the process of investigating his behaviour in office. Whilst we have taken those criticisms into account, as well as the fact that we have not heard from Mr Colman in person nor been able to question him on his account of events, we are nevertheless confident, given the nature and quality of the other evidence which we have considered, that our conclusions in relation to Mr Colman's behaviour are both reliable and fair.

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<sup>2</sup> Letter from Mr Jeremy Colman to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, 18 February 2011.

## 2. Accounting issues

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### *Overview*

2.1 The Auditor General is required to produce annual accounts for the Wales Audit Office which comply with the requirements laid down in the Government Financial Reporting Manual<sup>3</sup> which, in turn, has regard to International Financial Reporting Standards. Those accounts are required to be audited by external auditors appointed by the Assembly.

2.2 In September 2010 we became aware of a severance package which had been agreed in 2009 between the then Auditor General – Jeremy Colman and the then Chief Operating Officer of the Wales Audit Office – Anthony Snow. In view of the high level of public interest in, and disquiet at, this transaction – including concerns raised with us by the present Auditor General, we felt it our duty to look into the manner in which the severance package had been agreed and the extent to which its nature and cost had been clearly and accurately reflected in the Auditor General’s accounts in accordance with relevant financial reporting standards. Propriety issues arising from the package are considered in section three below.

2.3 We were very disturbed to learn that Mr Snow’s severance package had not been accounted for in full or properly disclosed in the Wales Audit Office accounts for 2009-10. In particular, the package contained a continuing obligation to make annual payments to the pension administrators until Mr Snow’s 60<sup>th</sup> birthday which had not been quantified. Furthermore, the total expected value of those payments should have been charged to the WAO’s account in 2009-10 – not to the accounts for the years in which those payments will actually be made. Further investigation by the Wales Audit Office revealed that other early severance packages agreed since 2005 had been incorrectly brought to account in the same way. The interim Auditor General, Ms Gillian Body, commissioned an internal audit review of the 2009-10 accounts and, shortly after taking up office as Auditor General in October 2010, Mr Huw Vaughan Thomas commissioned an independent review by the National Audit Office of the annual accounts of the Wales Audit Office from 2005 onwards.

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<sup>3</sup> HM Treasury, Financial Reporting Manual (FReM)

2.4 The intention behind the financial reporting standards is that the accounts should be transparent, and reflect the financial consequences of the decisions and transactions made by an organisation in the year that they were made. The accounting treatment adopted by the Wales Audit Office for continuing obligations arising from early retirement settlements meant that, taken individually, expenditure was understated in the year in which a settlement was agreed with corresponding overstatements spread over a number of future financial years. Taken together, expenditure has been understated in the accounts of the Wales Audit Office for the five years from 2005-06 to 2009-10 by a total of £1.6 million, as set out in table 1 below.

**Table 1: Understatement of the Wales Audit Office accounts from 2005-06 to 2009-10**

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	£'000 Five year total
<b>Surplus/(deficit) per WAO account</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>(1,758)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>(1,693)</b>
ADJ New provision for early severance	(1,195)	-	-	(44)	(994)	(2,233)
ADJ Release of new provision	-	127	171	183	196	677
<b>Revised surplus/(deficit)</b>	<b>(1,161)</b>	<b>(1,631)</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>(789)</b>	<b>(3,249)</b>
<b>Difference - favourable/(adverse)</b>	<b>(1,195)</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>(798)</b>	<b>(1,556)</b>

*Source: National Audit Office review of the Wales Audit Office Accounts 2005-10, 2010, p.15*

2.5 From 2007-08, the *Government of Wales Act 2006*<sup>4</sup> ('the Act') has required the resources to be used by the Wales Audit Office (and certain other bodies) to be authorised by a budget motion of the Assembly. The amounts authorised are based on an estimate submitted by the Auditor General for consideration by us prior to the start of the financial year. For 2009-10 in particular, if the Wales Audit Office had accounted for its early retirement settlements correctly, its accounts would have shown a resource outturn which exceeded the authorised amount by £798,000. That unauthorised expenditure would have been deemed irregular which should have resulted in the accounts being given a qualified audit opinion by the external auditors. Instead, the resource outturn shown was within the authorised amount and the external auditor's opinion was not qualified.

2.6 The National Audit Office confirmed that the accounts did not comply with the Financial Reporting Manual in a number of areas. These included:

- the Remuneration Report does not disclose the cash equivalent transfer value of the Auditor General's accrued pension entitlement;
- the cash received in year from the Welsh Consolidated Fund is treated as income in the Wales Audit Office's accounts, rather than financing.

<sup>4</sup> The *Government of Wales Act 2006* c.32

The consequence of this is that the net operating cost is incorrectly stated, making it very difficult to establish how the resource outturn compares with the amount authorised in the budget motion.

### ***Accounting Officer responsibilities***

2.7 Under paragraph 16 of schedule 8 to the Act, the Auditor General is the Accounting Officer for the Wales Audit Office. He or she is required to sign the accounts of the Wales Audit Office and take personal responsibility for ensuring that they have been properly prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Manual ('the FReM'). He or she is also responsible for the financial management of the Wales Audit Office and this includes ensuring that transactions are regular and that full regard is given to the need for propriety and value for money.

2.8 The Wales Audit Office, and the Auditor General as its accounting officer in particular, is accountable to the Assembly and us, the Public Accounts Committee, in exactly the same way as other public bodies that are audited by the Auditor General. That is made clear in the letter of designation issued by the Chair when the Auditor General takes up post.

2.9 There is a separate issue as to why the appointed external auditors chose to accept what appears to be improper accounting treatment, and we discussed this directly with them, but any action or omission on their part does not in any way lessen or mitigate the Accounting Officer's primary responsibility.

2.10 The appointment of the external auditors was terminated by mutual consent in January 2011.

### ***Conclusions on the accounting treatment***

2.11 To remedy the failings that occurred in previous financial statements we recommend that:

- the Wales Audit Office should seek an updated accounts direction from the Treasury to reflect the passing of the Government of Wales Act 2006, the establishment of the Welsh Consolidated Fund, and the statutory requirement for expenditure by the Wales Audit Office to be authorised by a budget motion of the Assembly;

- the 2010-11 accounts should comply fully with the revised accounts direction and the Financial Reporting Manual taking account of all the previous accounting and reporting issues raised by the National Audit Office and others;
- in particular, the 2009-10 comparative figures to be shown in the 2010-11 accounts should be restated with a note confirming the excess expenditure for that year. It is for the Auditor General to decide how and over what period the resulting negative reserves should be restored but his plans for doing so should also be disclosed.

## 3. Propriety

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### *Criminality*

3.1 The former Auditor General, Mr Jeremy Colman, engaged in criminal conduct using Wales Audit Office computing equipment on both Wales Audit Office and National Assembly for Wales property. It is a matter of public record that Mr Colman subsequently pleaded guilty to criminal offences, was sentenced to eight months imprisonment and was also required to register on the Sex Offenders Register for a period of ten years.<sup>5</sup>

### *Propriety of the Anthony Snow severance package*

3.2 Since the publication of the Wales Audit Office's *Review of the former Auditor General Wales, Mr Jeremy Colman's, conduct in office* our concerns relating to the circumstances of Mr Snow's severance package have deepened. This report, at paragraph 49 on page 17, points to deliberate actions on the part of Mr Colman to hide the full extent of Mr Snow's severance package from appearing in the annual accounts *'in a way that was connected with the COO's departure'*.<sup>6</sup> The full extent of the severance package did not appear in the accounts. We also have statements from the Compliance Partner, Mr Simon Edge, on record, to the effect that Mr Colman misled him by stating 'there was no severance package' for Mr Snow.<sup>7</sup>

3.3 Mr Colman instructed the Head of Finance to specifically exclude Human Resources from the negotiation of Mr Snow's severance package. According to Mr Snow, this was at his request, based on considerations to do with his relationship with the Head of HR, who reported to Mr Snow. But, if this was the case, the effect was to strengthen Mr Colman's ability to shield the transaction from public scrutiny, and his subsequent decision that the nature and extent of the severance package should be kept from the Audit and Risk Management Committee and senior members of the Wales Audit Office staff leads us to conclude that he acted deliberately to mislead the Assembly through obfuscating the true financial implications of Mr Snow's departure.

3.4 The failure to properly present the financial statements over a number of years might have been a deliberate and concerted effort to obfuscate the

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<sup>5</sup> *R v Colman* (2010) case ref:T20100502

<sup>6</sup> Wales Audit Office, *Review of the former Auditor General Wales, Mr Jeremy Colman's, conduct in office*, January 2011

<sup>7</sup> RoP 7 October 2010 private session and RoP 9 December 2010 c.194-201

true financial state of the Wales Audit Office over a number of years by members of staff who were charged with, or oversaw, the preparation of the accounts. It is for the Auditor General to fully investigate and decide whether any of his staff have a case to answer in this regard. From our perspective, the Auditor General, as the accounting officer, is responsible to us, and ultimately the Assembly for the discharge of these functions.

3.5 The evidence presented to us concerning the presentation of a true financial picture of the Wales Audit Office leads us to believe that the actions to obfuscate the true financial picture of the Wales Audit Office constitute a manifest failure on the part of the former Auditor General, Mr Colman, in the discharge of his accounting officer responsibilities to us, particularly given the nature and purpose of the office of Auditor General. We believe that the National Assembly for Wales and this Committee (which is responsible for considering the Auditor General's budget) in particular has been deliberately misled by these actions. We do not make this statement lightly and the gravity of this action should not be underestimated.

3.6 Consequently, we consider that the extent of Mr Colman's actions amount to misbehaviour for the purposes of paragraph 2(3) of Schedule 8 to the Act. We believe the case for this is further strengthened when other aspects of his behaviour in office are considered.

### ***Training and expenses claims***

3.7 During his terms of office, Mr Colman authorised a significant amount of training, both for himself and the former Chief Operating Officer. This training was largely executive coaching and personal development. In the case of Mr Colman, this amounted to expenditure of around £37,600 over his five years in office.<sup>8</sup> In the case of Mr Snow, this totalled around £39,700.<sup>9</sup>

3.8 This training was authorised by Mr Colman. The Wales Audit Office has been unable to identify any business cases, links to personal development plans or other justification for this training.<sup>10</sup> When he appeared before us, Mr Snow did not provide us with any further assurances regarding either the justification for these training costs or the benefits accrued to the Wales

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<sup>8</sup> Letter from the Auditor General to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, *Matters arising from Public Accounts Committee Meeting held on 19 January 2011*, 10 February 2011

<sup>9</sup> Letter from the Auditor General to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, *Matters arising from Public Accounts Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2010*, 12 January 2011

<sup>10</sup> RoP 19 Jan 11 c.388

Audit Office as a result of the training.<sup>11</sup> We believe the amount of training and the lack of justification do not constitute value for money and that the main beneficiaries of this expenditure of public money have been Mr Colman and Mr Snow. This behaviour falls far short of what we expect of an accounting officer, and particularly the Auditor General. We consider the approach taken to the training provided to Mr Colman and Mr Snow as a symptom of a broader culture that allowed Mr Colman to override internal controls when convenient to him. Mr Colman's actions in this regard have again caused us to question his professional conduct whilst in office.

### ***The conduct of other Wales Audit Office staff***

3.9 At the time the 2009-10 accounts were signed, Ms Gillian Body was acting as interim Auditor General and was therefore the accounting officer for the Wales Audit Office at that time and must take responsibility for the failures to prepare accounts for 2009-10 that complied with the Financial Reporting Manual. We consider, based on the evidence put to us, that she legitimately relied on the professional advice of her staff responsible for the preparation and review of the annual accounts, and on the report from the external auditors which did not identify any failings. She was also advised by the WAO's Audit and Risk Management Committee. It appears to us that she did not receive the advice she could have legitimately expected from these sources.

3.10 We understand that the Auditor General is currently investigating whether there are any other issues of culpability or capability in relation to his staff.

3.11 Senior staff from the Wales Audit Office have maintained throughout our investigation of these matters that they were not aware of the full extent of Anthony Snow's severance package and therefore did not challenge its accounting treatment.<sup>12</sup> However, in line with the findings of the National Audit Office,<sup>13</sup> we believe sufficient information existed for the nature and extent of the package and the subsequent accounting treatment to be challenged. Key to this is the fact that in March 2010 information emerged as part of the due diligence process about the existence of a package, which

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<sup>11</sup> RoP 23 March 2011

<sup>12</sup> This was discussed at the Public Accounts Committee at its meetings on 7 October 2010 and 9 December 2010

<sup>13</sup> National Audit Office, *Review of the Wales Audit Office's financial statements from 2005-2010*, December 2010 p.26



should have prompted questions as to how the transaction would be disclosed in the accounts.<sup>14</sup>

3.12 We make no recommendations in terms of how matters of internal staffing at the Wales Audit Office are dealt with. We believe it is a matter for the Auditor General to address and we have every confidence that he will address these matters fairly and thoroughly. We express our expectation that, where necessary, the Auditor General ensures that appropriate action is taken to ensure lessons are learnt from this episode, including referrals to the relevant professional bodies, where appropriate, and that he will report any matters of significance to us, or our successor committee, should any such matters emerge.

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<sup>14</sup> National Audit Office, Review of the Wales Audit Office's financial statements from 2005-2010, December 2010 p.26 and RoP 9 December 2010 c. 194-201

## 4. Governance

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4.1 Over the past two years, we have been looking at improving the governance arrangements that prevail in relation to the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office. In conjunction with Welsh Ministers, we have been seeking legislative powers for the National Assembly for Wales in this area.

4.2 In 2009, we planned to launch an inquiry into governance arrangements at the Wales Audit Office. However, this was deferred following the former Auditor General's decision to commission his own International Peer Review.<sup>15</sup>

4.3 The International Peer Review found that there was scope to strengthen and enhance the governance arrangements, but its findings were ultimately inconclusive in terms of how this improvement should be made.<sup>16</sup>

4.4 Over the past year, the criminal actions of the former Auditor General for Wales whilst in office, alongside other matters that have come to light since his departure, have reinforced the need for strengthened governance arrangements for the Wales Audit Office.

4.5 Under the Act, the office of Auditor General for Wales is a "corporation sole". The Wales Audit Office consists of the Auditor General and his/her staff but it is not a body corporate and unlike, say, a health body or an Assembly Government sponsored body does not have an appointed board. In the case of the Wales Audit Office, all of the functions are vested in the Auditor General who is charged with the governance of his office.

4.6 This arrangement reflects the well-established fact that audit judgements are best made by an individual rather than a board and that that individual is best placed to decide on how an individual audit assignment should be resourced and executed. Other bodies such as the Ombudsman, Children's Commissioner and Older People's Commissioner are similarly established as corporations' sole for similar reasons.

4.7 We fully agree that the Auditor General must be unfettered as to the exercise of his or her statutory functions so that audit judgements are and are seen to be independent and objective. However, recent events have shown that abuse of that position can have disastrous consequences. We

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<sup>15</sup> Wales Audit Office, International Peer Review, October 2009

<sup>16</sup> Ibid p.12

therefore conclude that the governance arrangements for the Wales Audit Office and its accountability to the Assembly need to be strengthened.

4.8 The present Auditor General, since taking up office in October 2010, has already taken significant strides to improve governance arrangements by establishing two new advisory committees for resources and remuneration in addition to the existing audit and risk management committee. These committees will consist of independent members appointed by the Auditor General, with input from a nominee of the Chair of the Assembly's Public Accounts Committee, using the public appointments process. Naturally we welcome these arrangements but there is no legal requirement for him to put such measures in place and they could easily be undone by a future Auditor General. We strongly believe that strengthened governance arrangements need to be underpinned with statutory force if we are to be confident that the abuses during Mr Colman's tenure of office can never recur.

4.9 The *Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011*<sup>17</sup> (which has just become law) includes amendments to Schedule 7 to the *Government of Wales Act 2006* that will provide the National Assembly for Wales with the necessary legislative competence to set out, inter alia, governance arrangements for the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office in an Assembly Act. Whilst it will be for the Fourth Assembly to decide on how these powers should be exercised, we offer the following thoughts as a starting point for consideration by our successor committee:

- place the arrangements for the Auditor's remuneration and term of office on a statutory basis;
- establish an Independent Advisory Board to oversee the governance arrangements for the Wales Audit Office. Crucially, the Board would be appointed by and therefore be answerable to the National Assembly. The Board would be able to establish committees and would be required to establish an audit committee – it could decide to adopt the committee structure currently being put in place by the Auditor General; and
- the Board would be free to advise the Auditor General on any aspect of his role and the governance of his office but the Auditor General would retain his or her responsibilities as Accounting Officer for the Wales Audit Office and would continue to be unfettered in respect of

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<sup>17</sup> The *Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011* Chapter 4

strategic direction, audit judgements, and the reporting and resourcing of audit assignments.

4.10 Subject to maintaining the Auditor General's strategic and operational independence, the Public Accounts Committee would be able to specify the Board's duties including, for example, establishing and overseeing the travel and subsistence expenses framework for the Auditor General and senior staff, agreeing training and development arrangements, and ensuring proper processes are in place for making appointments and filling vacancies.

4.11 Our findings here in relation to the office of Auditor General for Wales may have implications for other corporations sole in Wales.

## 5. Conclusions

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5.1 Based on the evidence put to us, we draw the conclusions set out in this section.

5.2 It is with great regret that we have had to consider the matters covered in this report. They are largely due to the actions of one person who decided that the standards of propriety and good governance that the office of Auditor General should enshrine did not apply to him. In our view, Mr Colman's conduct fell far short of what we can expect from a person holding the office of Auditor General. Even if Mr Colman had not been convicted of criminal offences, we believe that aspects of his behaviour in office amounted to misbehaviour for the purposes of paragraph 2(3) of Schedule 8 to the Act. The consequences of this would have been that, were Mr Colman still in office, we would have been compelled to advise the Assembly to recommend his removal from office to Her Majesty the Queen.

5.3 In considering the evidence before us, we have raised the question as to whether any matters should be referred to either relevant professional bodies or the police for further investigation. The Wales Audit Office, in its review of the former Auditor General, Mr Jeremy Colman's, conduct whilst in office, concluded on legal advice that no further matters relating to Mr Colman's conduct have been found that should be referred to the police.

5.4 Despite this, we remain concerned. We are not in a position to determine whether or not Mr Colman's conduct amounts to potential criminality. Without a referral of these matters to an appropriate authority for investigation a question will remain as to whether any matters of potential criminality remain to be investigated.

5.5 The Wales Audit Office considered whether the evidence it gathered could amount to Mr Colman having misconducted himself in public office. We believe that this evidence could also be further considered to ascertain whether any other issues of criminality are involved.

5.6 Accordingly, the Committee has agreed that the Chair should write to South Wales Police asking it to examine all the evidence with a view to forming its own view on whether any further matters of potential criminality need to be investigated further.

5.7 As reported above, the Auditor General has commissioned an independent review of the activities of certain members of his current staff.

We do not wish to pre-empt or prejudice this review or any subsequent decisions the Auditor General may have to make in relation to its findings.

**5.8 We recommend that the Auditor General provides us with assurance that he will consider referring any matters of potential professional misconduct that emerge on the part of Wales Audit Office staff to the relevant professional body.**

5.9 We have agreed that the Chair should make a direct referral to the relevant professional bodies regarding Mr Colman and the external auditors and that the Chair should also draw the attention of the relevant professional bodies to the contents of this report generally, depending on the outcome of the Auditor General's internal investigation, given the possible role of other individuals in relation to the issues it covers.

5.10 We hope that this report starts to draw a line under the accounting, governance and propriety concerns that developed during Mr Colman's term of office and that were brought to light over the past year. We have made a number of recommendations and, with strengthened legal powers on the horizon, we are confident that our successor committee in the Fourth Assembly will be in a position to underpin this with statutory force to ensure that the failures that have been identified can never occur again.

## **Witnesses**

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The following witnesses provided oral evidence to the Committee on the dates noted below. Transcripts of all oral evidence sessions can be viewed in full at <http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-committees/bus-committees-other-committees/bus-committees-third-ac-home/bus-committees-third-ac-agendas.htm>

### **7 October 2010**

Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales, Wales Audit Office

Gillian Body, Managing Partner – Performance Audit, Wales Audit Office

Kevin Thomas, Managing Partner – Planning and Resources, Wales Audit Office

Simon Edge, Engagement Partner - Compliance, Wales Audit Office

### **9 December 2010**

Huw Vaughan Thomas, Auditor General for Wales, Wales Audit Office

Gillian Body, Managing Partner – Performance Audit, Wales Audit Office

Kevin Thomas, Managing Partner – Planning and Resources, Wales Audit Office

Simon Edge, Engagement Partner - Compliance, Wales Audit Office

### **19 January 2011**

Gareth Lynn, Director, KTS Owens Thomas Limited

Carol Warburton, Director, KTS Owens Thomas Limited

### **23 March 2011**

Mr Anthony Snow

Mr Michael Breach

## List of written evidence

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The following written evidence was used by the Committee:

Wales Audit Office, Review of the former Auditor General Wales, Mr Jeremy Colman's, conduct in office, January 2011

National Audit Office, Review of the Wales Audit Office's financial statements from 2005-2010, December 2010

Wales Audit Office, International Peer Review, October 2009

The Budget Responsibility and National Audit Act 2011 c.4

Auditor General's annual report and accounts April 2009 to March 2010, June 2010

Wales Audit Office, Internal Audit Review of the Auditor General for Wales' accounts, December 2010

Letter from the Auditor General to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Matters arising from Public Accounts Committee Meeting held on 19 January 2011, 10 February 2011

Letter from the Auditor General to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, Matters arising from Public Accounts Committee Meeting held on 9 December 2010, 12 January 2011

Letter from Mr Jeremy Colman to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee, 18 February 2011

Letter from the Auditor General for Wales to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee regarding correspondence from Mr Colman, 24 February 2011