

Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru
Auditor General for Wales



WALES AUDIT OFFICE
SWYDDFA ARCHWILIO CYMRU

Audit of Financial Statements Report

Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee

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Status of report

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The team who delivered the work were John Herniman, Jeremy Saunders, Helen Holt and Alexis Smith

Contents

The Appointed Auditor intends to issue an unqualified audit report on your financial statements. There are some issues to report to you prior to their approval.

Summary report

Introduction	4
Status of the audit	4
Proposed audit report	4
Issues arising from the audit	4
Independence and objectivity	6

Appendices

Final Letter of Representation	7
Proposed audit report of the Appointed Auditor to the Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee	10

Summary report

Introduction

1. The Appointed Auditor is responsible for providing an opinion on whether the financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee (the Joint Committee) at 31 March 2014 and its income and expenditure for the year then ended.
2. We do not try to obtain absolute assurance that the financial statements are correctly stated, but adopt the concept of materiality. In planning and conducting the audit, we seek to identify material misstatements in your financial statements, namely, those that might mislead a reader of the accounts.
3. The quantitative levels at which we judge such misstatements to be material for the Joint Committee are £649,000 for income and expenditure items and working capital balances. Whether an item is judged material can also be affected by certain qualitative issues such as legal and regulatory requirements and political sensitivity. International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 260 requires us to report certain matters arising from the audit of the financial statements to those charged with governance of a body in sufficient time to enable appropriate action.
4. This report sets out the matters arising from the audit of the Joint Committee's financial statements for 2013-14, that require reporting under ISA 260.

Status of the audit

5. We received the draft financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2014 on 30 June 2014 which met the submission deadline and have now substantially completed the audit work on them.
6. We are reporting to you the more significant issues arising from the audit, which we believe you must consider prior to approval of the financial statements. The audit team has already discussed these issues with the Joint Committee Accountant and Head of Financial Reporting.

Proposed audit report

7. It is the Appointed Auditor's intention to issue an unqualified audit report on the financial statements once you have provided us with a Letter of Representation based on that set out in [Appendix 1](#). The proposed audit report is set out in [Appendix 2](#).

Issues arising from the audit

Uncorrected misstatements

8. There are no uncorrected misstatements in the financial statements.

Corrected misstatements

9. There are misstatements that management has corrected which we consider should be drawn to your attention due to their relevance to your responsibilities over the financial reporting process. The main items are set out below along with explanations:

Description of correction	Reason for correction
Some Welsh Government education grants received and paid out were not accounted for as income and expenditure in the Joint Committee's Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Account, as it was initially determined that the Joint Committee was acting as an agent for Welsh Government for these transactions. Review of the specific grants indicated that the Joint Committee is effectively acting as a 'principle' for the distribution of the grants and therefore we concluded that these grants should have been accounted for through income and expenditure. As a result, income increased by £47,548,000 and expenditure increased by £47,316,000.	Correct accounting treatment for education grants processed by the joint committee.

Other issues arising from the audit

10. In the course of the audit we consider a number of matters both qualitative and quantitative relating to the accounts and report any significant issues arising to you. There were no issues arising in these areas this year:
- **We have no concerns about the qualitative aspects of your accounting practices and financial reporting.** There are no matters arising that need to be reported to the Audit Committee.
 - We did not encounter any significant difficulties during the audit. We received information in a timely and helpful manner.
 - There were no matters discussed and corresponded upon with management which we need to report to you.
 - There are no other matters significant to the oversight of the financial reporting process that we need to report to you.
 - **We did not identify any material weaknesses in your internal controls.**
 - **There are not any other matters specifically relating to fraud, compliance with laws and regulations, subsequent events etc, required by auditing standards to be communicated to you.**

Independence and objectivity

11. As part of the finalisation process, we are required to provide you with representations concerning our independence.
12. We have complied with ethical standards and in our professional judgment, we are independent and our objectivity is not compromised. There are no relationships between the Wales Audit Office and Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee that we consider to bear on our objectivity and independence.

Final Letter of Representation

Anthony Barrett
Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ
[Date]

Representations regarding the 2013-14 financial statements

This letter is provided in connection with your audit of the financial statements of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2014 for the purpose of expressing an opinion on their truth and their proper preparation and the regularity of income and expenditure.

We confirm that to the best of our knowledge and belief, having made enquiries as we consider sufficient, we can make the following representations to you.

Management representations

Responsibilities

We have fulfilled our responsibilities for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with legislative requirements and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013-14; in particular the financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance therewith.

I acknowledge our responsibility for the design, implementation, maintenance and review of internal control to prevent and detect fraud and error.

Information provided

We have provided you with:

- Full access to:
 - all information of which we are aware that is relevant to the preparation of the financial statements such as books of account and supporting documentation, minutes of meetings and other matters;

- additional information that you have requested from us for the purpose of the audit; and
- unrestricted access to staff from whom you determined it necessary to obtain audit evidence.
- The results of our assessment of the risk that the financial statements may be materially misstated as a result of fraud.
- Our knowledge of fraud or suspected fraud that we are aware of and that affects Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee and involves:
 - management;
 - employees who have significant roles in internal control; or
 - others where the fraud could have a material effect on the financial statements.
- Our knowledge of any allegations of fraud, or suspected fraud, affecting the financial statements communicated by employees, former employees, regulators or others.
- Our knowledge of all known instances of non-compliance or suspected
- non-compliance with laws and regulations whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements.
- The identity of all related parties and all the related party relationships and transactions of which we are aware.

Financial statement representations

All transactions, assets and liabilities have been recorded in the accounting records and are reflected in the financial statements.

Significant assumptions used in making accounting estimates, including those measured at fair value, are reasonable.

Related party relationships and transactions have been appropriately accounted for and disclosed.

All events occurring subsequent to the reporting date which require adjustment or disclosure have been adjusted for or disclosed.

All known actual or possible litigation and claims whose effects should be considered when preparing the financial statements have been disclosed to the auditor and accounted for and disclosed in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework.

The financial statements are free of material misstatements, including omissions. There were no uncorrected misstatements.

Representations by those charged with governance.

We acknowledge that the representations made by management, above, have been discussed with us.

We acknowledge our responsibility for the preparation of true and fair financial statements in accordance with the applicable financial reporting framework. The financial statements were approved by Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee on 30 September 2014.

Section 151 Officer

Chair of the Joint Committee

Appendix 2

Proposed audit report of the Appointed Auditor to the Members of the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee

I have audited the accounting statements and related notes of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee for the year ended 31 March 2014 under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee accounting statements comprise the Movement in Reserves Statement, the Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement, the Balance Sheet and the Cash Flow Statement.

The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2013-14 based on International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs).

Respective responsibilities of the responsible financial officer and the independent auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Responsibilities for the Statement of Accounts set out on page 8, the responsible financial officer is responsible for the preparation of the statement of accounts which gives a true and fair view.

My responsibility is to audit the accounting statements and related notes in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). Those standards require me to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the accounting statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the accounting statements and related notes sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the accounting statements and related notes are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee's circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the responsible financial officer and the overall presentation of the accounting statements and related notes.

In addition, I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Foreword to identify material inconsistencies with the audited accounting statements and related notes and to identify any information that is apparently materially incorrect based on, or materially inconsistent with, the knowledge acquired by me in the course of performing the audit. If I become aware of any apparent material misstatements or inconsistencies, I consider the implications for my report.

Opinion on the accounting statements of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee

In my opinion the accounting statements and related notes:

- give a true and fair view of the financial position of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee as at 31 March 2014 and of its income and expenditure for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2012-14.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion, the information contained in the Explanatory Foreword for the financial year for which the accounting statements and related notes are prepared is consistent with the accounting statements and related notes.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the Governance Statement on which I report to you if, in my opinion, it does not reflect compliance with 'Delivering Good Governance in Local Government: Framework' published by CIPFA/SOLACE in June 2007, or if the statement is misleading or inconsistent with other information I am aware of from my audit.

Certificate of completion of audit

I certify that I have completed the audit of the accounts of Central South Consortium Joint Education Service Joint Committee in accordance with the requirements of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 and the Code of Audit Practice issued by the Auditor General for Wales.

Anthony Barrett
Appointed Auditor
Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
CARDIFF

September 2014

Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff CF11 9LJ

Tel: 029 2032 0500

Fax: 029 2032 0600

Textphone: 029 2032 0660

E-mail: info@wao.gov.uk

Website: www.wao.gov.uk

Swyddfa Archwilio Cymru

24 Heol y Gadeirlan
Caerdydd CF11 9LJ

Ffôn: 029 2032 0500

Ffacs: 029 2032 0600

Ffôn Testun: 029 2032 0660

E-bost: info@wao.gov.uk

Gwefan: www.wao.gov.uk