



Government of Wales Act 1998

1998 CHAPTER 38

PART IV

ASSEMBLY FINANCE

Payments to Assembly etc.

80 Grants to Assembly

- (1) The Secretary of State shall from time to time make payments to the Assembly out of money provided by Parliament of such amounts as he may determine.
- (2) Any Minister of the Crown, and any government department, may make to the Assembly payments of such amounts as the Minister or department may determine.

81 Statement of estimated payments etc

- (1) The Secretary of State shall for each financial year make a written statement showing—
 - (a) the total amount of the payments which he estimates will be made by him for that financial year under section 80(1),
 - (b) the total amount of any other payments which he estimates will be made to the Assembly for that financial year by Ministers of the Crown and government departments, and
 - (c) the total amount of the payments which he estimates will be made to the Assembly for that financial year otherwise than by a Minister of the Crown or government department.
- (2) The statement shall also—
 - (a) show the total amount of any basic credit approvals which the Secretary of State estimates will be issued by the Assembly for that financial year under section 53 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and

- (b) include such other information as the Secretary of State considers appropriate (including, in particular, information relating to amounts of any supplementary credit approvals which he estimates have been, or are to be, issued by the Assembly under section 54 of that Act).
- (3) The statement shall also show the total amount which the Secretary of State for Wales proposes to expend for that financial year out of money provided by Parliament otherwise than on making payments to the Assembly.
- (4) The statement shall include details of how the total amounts referred to in subsections (1)(a), (b) and (c), (2)(a) and (3) have been arrived at.
- (5) The statement for each financial year after the first financial year of the Assembly shall be made no later than four months before the beginning of the financial year; and the statement for the first financial year of the Assembly shall be made as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- (6) The Secretary of State shall lay before the Assembly any statement made under this section.

82 Loans to Assembly by Secretary of State

- (1) The Secretary of State may from time to time lend to the Assembly such sums as it appears to the Assembly are required for the purpose of—
 - (a) meeting a temporary excess of expenditure by the Assembly over its receipts, or
 - (b) providing the Assembly with a working balance.
- (2) The Treasury may issue to the Secretary of State out of the National Loans Fund such sums as he needs for making loans under this section.
- (3) Any loans which the Secretary of State makes under this section shall be repaid to him at such times, and interest on them shall be paid to him at such rates and at such times, as the Treasury from time to time determine.
- (4) Sums received by the Secretary of State under subsection (3) shall be paid into the National Loans Fund.
- (5) The aggregate outstanding in respect of the principal of loans made under this section shall not exceed £500 million.
- (6) The Secretary of State may from time to time by order made with the consent of the Treasury substitute for the amount specified in subsection (5) such greater amount as is specified in the order.

83 Accounts relating to loans under section 82

- (1) The Secretary of State shall for each financial year prepare accounts in such form and manner as the Treasury may direct of—
 - (a) loans made by him under section 82, and
 - (b) repayments and payments of interest made to him under that section.
- (2) The Secretary of State shall send accounts under subsection (1) relating to a financial year to the Comptroller and Auditor General no later than five months after the end of the financial year.

- (3) The Comptroller and Auditor General shall—
- (a) examine, certify and report on accounts sent to him under subsection (2), and
 - (b) lay copies of the accounts, together with his report, before each House of Parliament.

84 Destination of receipts etc

- (1) Sums received by the Assembly shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund (but subject as follows).
- (2) Sums received by the Assembly—
- (a) under section 80 or 82, or
 - (b) under any other provision of this Act or any other enactment for the making of payments or loans to the Assembly by a Minister of the Crown or a government department,
- are not required to be paid into the Consolidated Fund.
- (3) Sums received by the Assembly—
- (a) under section 54 of the Local Government Finance Act 1988 (central rating),
 - (b) under section 59 of that Act (contributions in respect of Crown hereditaments), or
 - (c) under paragraph 5 of Schedule 8 to that Act or regulations under subparagraph (15) of that paragraph (non-domestic rating contributions),
- are not required to be paid into the Consolidated Fund.
- (4) Sums received by the Assembly shall not be paid into the Consolidated Fund if they are required by any provision of this Act or any other enactment to be dealt with in some other way.
- (5) Sums received by the Assembly are not required to be paid into the Consolidated Fund if they are authorised (but not required) by any provision of this Act or any other enactment to be dealt with in some other way (and are so dealt with).
- (6) The Treasury may direct that sums received by the Assembly which are, or are of a description, specified in the direction are not required to be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

Expenditure by Assembly etc.

85 Expenditure by Assembly

- (1) No expenditure shall be incurred by the Assembly except—
- (a) in, or in connection with, the exercise of any of the functions of the Assembly, or
 - (b) for a purpose for which expenditure is authorised or required to be incurred by the Assembly by any enactment.
- (2) The ways in which the Assembly may incur expenditure include, in particular, giving financial assistance (whether by way of grant, loan or guarantee) to any person engaged in any activity which the Assembly considers will secure, or help to secure,

the attainment of any objective which the Assembly aims to attain in the exercise of any of its functions.

- (3) The Assembly may attach conditions to the giving of financial assistance by the Assembly; and the conditions which may be attached include, in particular, conditions requiring the repayment of the whole or any part of a grant, or the making of any other payments, in any circumstances.

86 Statement of proposed expenditure etc

- (1) The Assembly shall before the beginning of each financial year after the first financial year of the Assembly make a written statement showing—
 - (a) the total amount of the expenditure which it proposes to incur for the financial year, and
 - (b) on what it proposes to incur that expenditure.
- (2) The statement shall also show—
 - (a) the total amount of the payments which the Assembly expects will be made by the Secretary of State for the financial year under section 80(1),
 - (b) the total amount of any other payments which the Assembly expects will be made to the Assembly for the financial year by Ministers of the Crown and government departments, and
 - (c) the total amount of the payments which the Assembly expects will be made to the Assembly for the financial year otherwise than by a Minister of the Crown or government department.
- (3) The statement shall also—
 - (a) show the total amount of any basic credit approvals which the Assembly has issued, or expects to issue, for the financial year under section 53 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, and
 - (b) include such other information as the Assembly considers appropriate (including, in particular, information relating to amounts of any supplementary credit approvals which the Assembly has issued, or expects to issue, under section 54 of that Act).
- (4) A statement under this section shall be published by the Assembly as soon after being made as is reasonably practicable.

87 National Loans Fund lending

- (1) This section applies where—
 - (a) a power of a Minister of the Crown to lend money is transferred to the Assembly by an Order in Council under section 22, and
 - (b) any sums required for the exercise of the power are issued out of the National Loans Fund.
- (2) The rate of interest on any loan made by the Assembly in the exercise of the power shall be not less than the lowest rate determined by the Treasury under section 5 of the National Loans Act 1968 in respect of similar loans made out of the National Loans Fund on the day the loan is made.
- (3) The provision for the issue of the sums shall, so far as relating to the issue of sums required for the exercise of the power by the Assembly, have effect as provision for

the issue of the sums to the Secretary of State and for imposing a duty on him to pay them to the Assembly.

- (4) If, before the power is transferred, any repayment of, or payment of interest on, any loan made in the exercise of the power is required to be made to a Minister of the Crown for payment by him into the National Loans Fund, any such repayment or payment made after the transfer shall be made to the Assembly and the Assembly shall then pay it to the Secretary of State for payment by him into that Fund.
- (5) Subsection (4) applies in relation to loans made, before the transfer, by the Minister of the Crown as well as to loans made, after the transfer, by the Assembly.

88 Accounts relating to funds paid to Assembly for lending

- (1) The Secretary of State shall for each financial year prepare accounts in such form and manner as the Treasury may direct of—
 - (a) relevant loan funds paid by him to the Assembly, and
 - (b) sums paid to him by the Assembly which are repayments of, or payments of interest on, loans made out of relevant loan funds.
- (2) In subsection (1) “relevant loan funds” means sums which are—
 - (a) issued to the Secretary of State out of the National Loans Fund,
 - (b) paid by him to the Assembly, and
 - (c) lent by the Assembly in exercise of a power to lend money.
- (3) The Secretary of State shall send accounts under subsection (1) relating to a financial year to the Comptroller and Auditor General no later than five months after the end of the financial year.
- (4) The Comptroller and Auditor General shall—
 - (a) examine, certify and report on accounts sent to him under subsection (3), and
 - (b) lay copies of the accounts, together with his report, before each House of Parliament.

89 Source of sums paid by Assembly

Any enactment which—

- (a) charges the payment of any sum on the Consolidated Fund or requires or authorises the payment of any sum from that Fund, or
- (b) requires or authorises the payment of any sum out of money provided by Parliament,

shall cease to have effect in so far as that sum is payable by the Assembly.

The Auditor General for Wales

90 Auditor General for Wales

- (1) There shall be an office of Auditor General for Wales or Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru.
- (2) The person for the time being holding that office shall by the name of that office be a corporation sole.

- (3) The Auditor General for Wales shall be appointed by Her Majesty.
- (4) Subject to subsections (5) and (6), the Auditor General for Wales shall hold office until the end of the period for which he is appointed.
- (5) Her Majesty may relieve the Auditor General for Wales of office before the end of the period for which he was appointed—
 - (a) at his request, or
 - (b) on Her Majesty being satisfied that he is incapable for medical reasons of performing the duties of his office and of requesting to be relieved of it.
- (6) Her Majesty may remove the Auditor General for Wales from office before the end of the period for which he was appointed if, on the ground of misbehaviour, the Secretary of State recommends that Her Majesty should do so; but the Secretary of State shall not so recommend without consulting the Assembly.
- (7) The Auditor General for Wales shall not be regarded as holding office under Her Majesty or as exercising any functions on behalf of the Crown; but he shall be taken to be a Crown servant for the purposes of the Official Secrets Act 1989.

91 Remuneration

- (1) The Assembly (or, before the first ordinary election, the Secretary of State) shall—
 - (a) pay the Auditor General for Wales such salary and any such allowances, and
 - (b) make any such payments towards the provision of superannuation benefits for or in respect of him,as may be provided for by or under the terms of his appointment.
- (2) The Assembly shall pay to or in respect of a person who has ceased to hold office as Auditor General for Wales such amounts (if any) by way of—
 - (a) pension or gratuities, or
 - (b) provision for those benefits,as may have been provided for by or under the terms of his appointment.
- (3) In Schedule 1 to the Superannuation Act 1972 (offices etc. to which section 1 of that Act applies), in the list of “Offices” insert—

“Auditor General for Wales.”
- (4) The Assembly shall pay to the Minister for the Civil Service, at such times as he may direct, such sums as he may determine in respect of any increase attributable to subsection (3) in the sums payable out of money provided by Parliament under the Superannuation Act 1972.

92 Staff etc

- (1) Arrangements may be made between the Auditor General for Wales and the Comptroller and Auditor General for the provision of administrative, professional or technical services to the Auditor General for Wales by the National Audit Office.
- (2) The Auditor General for Wales may, having regard to any arrangements made or capable of being made under subsection (1), appoint such staff or secure the provision

of such services as he considers necessary for assisting him in the exercise of his functions.

- (3) No arrangements shall be made—
- (a) for any of the functions of the Auditor General for Wales or of the Assembly to be exercised by the other or by a member of the other's staff, or
 - (b) for the provision of any administrative, professional or technical services by the Auditor General for Wales or the Assembly for the other.
- (4) The staff of the Auditor General for Wales shall be appointed on such terms and conditions as he may determine; and he shall pay his staff such remuneration as may be provided for by or under their terms of appointment.
- (5) In Schedule 1 to the Superannuation Act 1972 (employments etc. to which section 1 of that Act applies), at the appropriate place in the list of "Other Bodies" insert—
- "Employment as a member of the staff of the Auditor General for Wales."
- (6) The Assembly shall pay to the Minister for the Civil Service, at such times as he may direct, such sums as he may determine in respect of any increase attributable to subsection (5) in the sums payable out of money provided by Parliament under the Superannuation Act 1972.
- (7) No member of the staff of the Auditor General for Wales shall be regarded as holding office under Her Majesty or as exercising any functions on behalf of the Crown; but each member of his staff shall be taken to be a Crown servant for the purposes of the Official Secrets Act 1989.
- (8) Any function of the Auditor General for Wales may be exercised by—
- (a) a member of his staff,
 - (b) a member of the staff of the National Audit Office providing services to him in pursuance of arrangements made under subsection (1), or
 - (c) any other person providing services to him,
- if authorised by him for that purpose.
- (9) An authority under subsection (8) to certify or report on accounts (or statements of accounts) for the Assembly—
- (a) shall extend only to accounts (or statements) which the presiding officer has certified to the Assembly that the Auditor General for Wales is unable to certify or report on himself, and
 - (b) shall cease on a vacancy arising in the office of Auditor General for Wales.
- (10) The reference in subsection (9)(a) to the presiding officer includes a reference to any person for the time being performing the functions of presiding officer.

93 Expenses, fees and accounts

- (1) The expenses of the Auditor General for Wales shall, so far as they cannot be met out of income received by him, be met by the Assembly (or, before the first ordinary election, by the Secretary of State).
- (2) Those expenses include any sums payable by the Auditor General for Wales in consequence of a breach, in the course of the performance of any of his functions, of any contractual or other duty (whether that breach occurs by reason of his act or

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omission or that of a member of his staff or any other person assisting him in the exercise of his functions).

- (3) The Auditor General for Wales may charge a fee for auditing the accounts of any person other than the Assembly.
- (4) For each financial year after the first financial year of the Assembly the Auditor General for Wales shall prepare, and submit to the Audit Committee, an estimate of the income and expenses of his office.
- (5) Each such estimate shall be submitted to the Audit Committee at least five months before the beginning of the financial year to which it relates.
- (6) The Audit Committee shall examine each such estimate submitted to it and, after having done so, shall lay the estimate before the Assembly with any such modifications as the Committee thinks fit.
- (7) Where the Audit Committee proposes to lay such an estimate before the Assembly with modifications, the Committee shall first consult the Secretary of State and have regard to any advice which he may give.
- (8) The Auditor General for Wales shall, for each financial year, prepare accounts in accordance with directions given to him by the Treasury.
- (9) The directions which the Treasury may give under subsection (8) include, in particular, directions as to—
 - (a) the information to be contained in the accounts and the manner in which it is to be presented,
 - (b) the methods and principles in accordance with which the accounts are to be prepared, and
 - (c) the additional information (if any) that is to accompany the accounts.

94 Audit of Auditor General’s accounts

- (1) The Assembly shall appoint an auditor of the accounts of the Auditor General for Wales.
- (2) The Assembly may not delegate the function of appointing the auditor.
- (3) A person shall not be appointed as the auditor unless—
 - (a) he is eligible for appointment as a company auditor under section 25 of the Companies Act 1989, or
 - (b) he is a member of a body of accountants, established in the United Kingdom or another EEA State, which is for the time being approved by the Assembly; and “EEA State” means any State which is a Contracting Party to the Agreement on the European Economic Area signed at Oporto on 2nd May 1992, as adjusted by the Protocol signed at Brussels on 17th March 1993.
- (4) The Assembly may delegate to the Audit Committee the function of approving bodies of accountants, or of withdrawing approval from such bodies, but may not otherwise delegate those functions.
- (5) If a person appointed as the auditor ceases to be a person who could be so appointed, his appointment is ended and he ceases to be the auditor.

- (6) The auditor shall be appointed on such terms and conditions as the Assembly may determine; and the Auditor General for Wales shall pay the auditor such remuneration as may be provided for by or under the terms of the auditor’s appointment.
- (7) Any accounts which the Auditor General for Wales is directed to prepare under section 93(8) for any financial year shall be submitted by him (after he has signed them) to the auditor no later than five months after the end of that financial year.
- (8) The auditor shall carry out an audit of any accounts submitted to him under subsection (7); and on completing the audit the auditor shall certify the accounts and lay them, together with his report on them, before the Assembly.
- (9) The auditor—
- (a) shall have a right of access at all reasonable times to all such documents as appear to him necessary for the purposes of his audit of the accounts of the Auditor General for Wales,
 - (b) shall be entitled to require from any person holding or accountable for any of those documents any assistance, information or explanation which he reasonably thinks necessary for those purposes, and
 - (c) may require the Auditor General for Wales to furnish him at times specified by him with accounts of such of the transactions of the Auditor General for Wales as he may specify.
- (10) The auditor—
- (a) may carry out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Auditor General for Wales has used his resources in discharging his functions, and
 - (b) may lay before the Assembly a report of the results of any such examinations.
- (11) For the purpose of carrying out examinations under subsection (10), the auditor—
- (a) shall have a right of access at all reasonable times to all such documents in the custody or under the control of the Auditor General for Wales as he may reasonably require for that purpose, and
 - (b) shall be entitled to require from any person holding or accountable for any of those documents any assistance, information or explanation which he reasonably thinks necessary for that purpose.

95 Access to documents by Auditor General

- (1) For the purposes of his examination of any auditable accounts, the Auditor General for Wales—
- (a) shall have a right of access at all reasonable times to all the documents relating to the accounts of any relevant person,
 - (b) shall be entitled to require from any person holding or accountable for any of those documents any assistance, information or explanation which he reasonably thinks necessary for those purposes, and
 - (c) may require any relevant person to furnish him at times specified by him with accounts of such of that relevant person’s transactions as he may specify.
- (2) In subsection (1) “relevant person”, in relation to any auditable accounts, means—
- (a) the person by whom they are prepared, and

- (b) in the case of any accounts which the Assembly is directed to prepare under section 97, any person to whose financial affairs and transactions the auditable accounts are to relate by virtue of directions under subsection (2) of that section.
- (3) In this section “auditable accounts” means any accounts or statement of accounts falling to be examined by the Auditor General for Wales in accordance with any provision made by or by virtue of this or any other Act.
- (4) For the purpose of carrying out, in accordance with any provision made by or by virtue of this or any other Act, examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which any person has used his resources in discharging his functions, the Auditor General for Wales—
 - (a) shall have a right of access at all reasonable times to all such documents in the custody or under the control of that person as he may reasonably require for that purpose, and
 - (b) shall be entitled to require from any person holding or accountable for any of those documents any assistance, information or explanation which he reasonably thinks necessary for that purpose.

96 Auditor General for Wales: miscellaneous

- (1) Where the Assembly is entitled to appoint the auditor of the accounts of any person (other than the Auditor General for Wales), the Assembly may appoint the Auditor General for Wales to be the auditor (even if he would not otherwise be eligible to be appointed).
- (2) Where in such a case the auditor falls to be appointed annually, the Assembly may appoint the Auditor General for Wales to be the auditor for a year, or for two or more years, or indefinitely until further exercise of the power of appointment.
- (3) The Auditor General for Wales may—
 - (a) examine, certify or report on a person’s accounts, or
 - (b) carry out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which a person has used his resources in discharging his functions,if provision is made for the Auditor General for Wales to do so by an agreement entered into by the person with either the Assembly or a Minister of the Crown.
- (4) In determining how to exercise his functions under paragraph (b) of subsection (3), the Auditor General for Wales shall take into account the views of the Audit Committee (or, before the first ordinary election, the views of the Secretary of State) as to the examinations which he should carry out under that paragraph.
- (5) Where by an Order in Council under section 22 there is transferred to the Assembly a function of preparing any accounts, the Secretary of State may by order provide for the transfer to the Auditor General for Wales of any function of the Comptroller and Auditor General in relation to those accounts.
- (6) An order under subsection (5) may contain any appropriate consequential, incidental, supplementary or transitional provisions or savings (including provisions in the form of amendments or repeals of enactments).
- (7) An Order in Council under section 22 may include any provision that may be included in an order under subsection (5).

Financial accountability of Assembly etc.

97 Preparation and audit of Assembly’s annual accounts

- (1) The Assembly shall, for each financial year, prepare accounts in accordance with directions given to it by the Treasury.
- (2) The directions which the Treasury may give under subsection (1) include directions to prepare accounts relating to financial affairs and transactions of persons other than the Assembly.
- (3) The directions which the Treasury may give under subsection (1) include, in particular, directions as to—
 - (a) the financial affairs and transactions to which the accounts are to relate,
 - (b) the information to be contained in the accounts and the manner in which it is to be presented,
 - (c) the methods and principles in accordance with which the accounts are to be prepared, and
 - (d) the additional information (if any) that is to accompany the accounts.
- (4) Any accounts which the Assembly is directed under this section to prepare for any financial year shall be submitted by the Assembly to the Auditor General for Wales no later than five months after the end of that financial year.
- (5) The Auditor General for Wales shall—
 - (a) examine and certify any accounts submitted to him under this section, and
 - (b) no later than four months after the accounts are submitted to him, lay before the Assembly a copy of them as certified by him together with his report on them.
- (6) In examining any accounts submitted to him under this section, the Auditor General for Wales shall, in particular, satisfy himself—
 - (a) that the expenditure to which the accounts relate has been incurred lawfully and in accordance with the authority which governs it, and
 - (b) that money received by the Assembly for a particular purpose or particular purposes has not been expended otherwise than for that purpose or those purposes.
- (7) Where—
 - (a) by virtue of any enactment other than this section the Assembly is under an obligation to prepare accounts dealing with any matters, and
 - (b) it appears to the Treasury that those matters fall to be dealt with in accounts directed to be prepared under this section,the Treasury may relieve the Assembly of that obligation for or in respect of such periods as they may direct.

98 Accounting officers

- (1) The Treasury shall designate a member of the Assembly’s staff as the Assembly’s principal accounting officer.
- (2) The Assembly’s principal accounting officer shall have—
 - (a) in relation to the Assembly’s accounts and finances, and

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- (b) in relation to the performance by persons designated as accounting officers in pursuance of any provision of this Act of their responsibilities as accounting officers,
the responsibilities which are from time to time specified by the Treasury.
- (3) The Treasury may designate other members of the Assembly's staff as additional accounting officers.
- (4) An additional accounting officer shall have—
- (a) in relation to such of the Assembly's accounts and finances as may be specified by the Treasury, and
 - (b) in relation to the performance by persons designated as accounting officers in pursuance of any provision of this Act (other than this section) of their responsibilities as accounting officers,
the responsibilities which are from time to time specified by the Treasury.
- (5) The responsibilities that may be specified under this section in relation to the Assembly's accounts and finances (or any of them) include in particular—
- (a) responsibilities in relation to the signing of accounts,
 - (b) responsibilities for the propriety and regularity of the Assembly's finances, and
 - (c) responsibilities for the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Assembly uses its resources.
- (6) The responsibilities which may be specified under this section include responsibilities owed to—
- (a) the Assembly or the Audit Committee, or
 - (b) the House of Commons or its Committee of Public Accounts,
- and in the case of an additional accounting officer include responsibilities owed to the Assembly's principal accounting officer.

99 Accounts of Assembly subsidiaries etc

- (1) For the purposes of his examination of any accounts of the Assembly, the Auditor General for Wales—
- (a) shall have a right of access at all reasonable times to all the documents relating to the accounts of any Assembly subsidiary (whether or not the accounts of the Assembly being examined relate to the financial affairs and transactions of the subsidiary),
 - (b) shall be entitled to require from any person holding or accountable for any of those documents any assistance, information or explanation which he reasonably thinks necessary for those purposes, and
 - (c) may require any Assembly subsidiary to furnish him at times specified by him with accounts of such of the subsidiary's transactions as he may specify.
- (2) The Treasury may, by directions given to an Assembly subsidiary, require the subsidiary to include in any accounts which the subsidiary prepares (under, for example, the law relating to companies or charities) such additional information as may be specified in the directions.

- (3) Including information in any accounts in compliance with such directions shall not be treated as a breach of any provision which prohibits, or does not authorise, the inclusion in the accounts of that information.
- (4) In this section “Assembly subsidiary” means—
 - (a) any body corporate or other undertaking (as defined in section 259(1) of the Companies Act 1985) of which the Assembly is a parent undertaking (within the meaning of section 258 of that Act),
 - (b) any trust of which the Assembly is a settlor, or
 - (c) any charitable institution of which the Assembly is a founder but which is neither a body corporate nor a trust.

100 Examinations into Assembly’s use of resources

- (1) The Auditor General for Wales may carry out examinations into the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which the Assembly has used its resources in discharging its functions.
- (2) Subsection (1) shall not be construed as entitling the Auditor General for Wales to question the merits of the policy objectives of the Assembly.
- (3) In determining how to exercise his functions under this section, the Auditor General for Wales shall take into account the views of the Audit Committee as to the examinations which he should carry out under this section.
- (4) The Auditor General for Wales may lay before the Assembly a report of the results of any examination carried out by him under this section.
- (5) In section 6(3) of the National Audit Act 1983 (public bodies subject to economy etc. examinations by the Comptroller and Auditor General), after paragraph (a) insert—
 - “(aa) the National Assembly for Wales;”.
- (6) The Auditor General for Wales and the Comptroller and Auditor General may co-operate with, and give assistance to, each other in connection with the carrying out of examinations in respect of the Assembly under this section or section 6 of the National Audit Act 1983 (economy etc. examinations).

101 Examinations by Comptroller and Auditor General

- (1) For the purpose of enabling him to carry out examinations into, and report to Parliament on, the finances of the Assembly, the Comptroller and Auditor General—
 - (a) shall have a right of access at all reasonable times to all such documents in the custody or under the control of the Assembly or any other person audited by the Auditor General for Wales, or of the Auditor General for Wales, as he may reasonably require for that purpose, and
 - (b) shall be entitled to require from any person holding or accountable for any of those documents any assistance, information or explanation which he reasonably thinks necessary for that purpose.
- (2) The Comptroller and Auditor General shall—
 - (a) consult the Auditor General for Wales, and

- (b) take into account any relevant work done or being done by the Auditor General for Wales,

before he acts in reliance on subsection (1) or carries out an examination in respect of the Assembly under section 6 of the National Audit Act 1983 (economy etc. examinations).

102 Audit Committee reports

- (1) The Audit Committee may consider, and lay before the Assembly a report on, any accounts, statement of accounts or report laid before the Assembly by—
 - (a) the Auditor General for Wales, or
 - (b) the auditor appointed under section 94.
- (2) If requested to do so by the House of Commons Committee of Public Accounts, the Audit Committee may—
 - (a) on behalf of the Committee of Public Accounts take evidence from the Assembly’s principal accounting officer or any additional accounting officer designated under section 98, and
 - (b) report to the Committee of Public Accounts and transmit to that Committee any evidence so taken.

103 Publication of accounts and audit reports etc

- (1) A document to which this subsection applies shall be published by the Assembly as soon after being laid before it as is reasonably practicable.
- (2) The documents to which subsection (1) applies are—
 - (a) any accounts, statement of accounts or report laid before the Assembly by the Auditor General for Wales,
 - (b) any accounts or report laid before the Assembly by the auditor appointed under section 94, and
 - (c) any estimate or report laid before the Assembly under section 93(6) or 102(1) by the Audit Committee.

Funding of school inspections and forestry in Wales

104 Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Schools in Wales

- (1) The provision of funding for Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Schools in Wales (“the Chief Inspector”) shall be the responsibility of the Assembly.
- (2) What subsection (1) requires of the Assembly is that it shall provide such funding for the Chief Inspector as it considers appropriate.
- (3) In deciding what funding it considers appropriate to provide for the Chief Inspector, the Assembly shall have regard in particular to what it considers the Chief Inspector needs to spend in order to discharge his functions effectively.
- (4) The Assembly shall before the beginning of each financial year consult the Chief Inspector about the funding it is to provide for him in that financial year; and in determining the amount of that funding the Assembly shall take account of the Chief Inspector’s estimates of—

- (a) what he will need to spend in that financial year in order to discharge his functions effectively, and
 - (b) the income which he will receive in that financial year and be entitled to apply towards meeting his expenses.
- (5) But the consultation required by subsection (4) about the funding to be provided for the Chief Inspector in the first financial year in which his funding is the responsibility of the Assembly shall, if it cannot be carried out before the beginning of that financial year, be carried out as soon as is reasonably practicable.
- (6) Schedule 6 (which makes further provision about the Chief Inspector) has effect.

105 Forestry Commissioners

- (1) The provision of funding for the exercise by the Forestry Commissioners of their functions in relation to Wales shall be the responsibility of the Assembly.
- (2) What subsection (1) requires of the Assembly is that it shall provide such funding as the Assembly considers appropriate for the exercise by the Forestry Commissioners of their functions in relation to Wales.
- (3) In deciding what funding it considers appropriate to provide for the exercise by the Forestry Commissioners of their functions in relation to Wales, the Assembly shall have regard in particular to what it considers those Commissioners need to spend in order effectively to discharge their functions in relation to Wales.
- (4) The Assembly shall before the beginning of each financial year consult the Forestry Commissioners about the funding it is to provide for them in that financial year; and in determining the amount of that funding the Assembly shall take account of the Forestry Commissioners' estimates of—
- (a) what they will need to spend in that financial year in order effectively to discharge their functions in relation to Wales, and
 - (b) the income which they will receive in that financial year and be entitled to apply towards meeting their expenditure on the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales.
- (5) Schedule 7 (which makes further provision about the Forestry Commissioners and the exercise of their functions in relation to Wales) has effect.