

Appointment of the non-executive Members of the Wales Audit Office Board

January 2019



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About the Committee

The Committee was established on 22 June 2016 to carry out the functions of the responsible committee set out in Standing Orders 18.10, 18.11, 19 and 20 of the National Assembly for Wales.

Under Standing Orders 19 and 20, the committee's responsibilities include considering any report or document laid before the Assembly concerning the use of resources, or expenditure from the Welsh Consolidated Fund. This includes undertaking budget scrutiny of the bodies directly funded from the Welsh Consolidated Fund.

Under Standing Orders 18.10 and 18.11, the committee's responsibilities include oversight of the governance of the Wales Audit Office, as set out in the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013.

The committee also considers any proposals for, and the progress of the devolution of fiscal powers to Wales as part of its responsibilities.

The committee may also scrutinise legislation introduced to the Assembly.

Committee Chair:



Llyr Gruffydd AM

Plaid Cymru
North Wales

Current Committee membership:



Rhun ap Iorwerth AM

Plaid Cymru
Ynys Mon



Alun Davies AM

Welsh Labour
Blaenau Gwent



Neil Hamilton AM

UKIP Wales
Mid and West Wales



Mike Hedges AM

Welsh Labour
Swansea East



Rhianon Passmore AM

Welsh Labour
Islwyn



Nick Ramsay AM

Welsh Conservatives
Monmouth

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1. Background

- 1.** On 5 March 2013 the Assembly passed the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013 (The Act). The Act sets out accountability and governance arrangements relating to the Auditor General for Wales and the Wales Audit Office (WAO). The Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2013.
- 2.** The Act notably confers several responsibilities upon the National Assembly for Wales, including the appointment of five non-executive Members to the WAO Board (including the Chair of the Board). The Assembly is also responsible for making remuneration arrangements in relation to the non-executive Members.
- 3.** Oversight of the WAO falls within the remit of the Finance Committee (the Committee). Under Standing Orders 18.10(v), 18.10(vii) and 18.10(viii) the Committee is responsible for carrying out the Assembly's functions relating to the appointment of the non-executive Members of the WAO Board (other than the Chair), and determining the terms of appointment (including remuneration) of those Members.

2. Role of the Finance Committee

Wales Audit Office Board

4. In accordance with the Act, non-executive Members of the Board may be appointed for a term of office of up to four years, and may serve a maximum of two terms.¹
5. Two of the current non-executive Members' terms of office expire on 15 March 2019. One of the non-executive Members has served their first term on the Board and is, therefore, (subject to satisfying the eligibility requirements in the Act) able to serve a second term. The other non-executive Member is approaching the end of their second term on the Board and will stand down at the end of their current tenure.
6. Whilst the Act specifically allows for non-executive Members to be appointed no more than twice, the Act also requires all appointments of non-executive Members to be "based on the conclusions of a fair and open competition".²
7. The non-executive Member approaching the end of their first four-year term was invited to interview with other shortlisted candidates.

The Recruitment Process

8. The Committee advertised for candidates interested in applying to become WAO non-executive Board Members on the National Assembly for Wales' website. Additional adverts were placed in:
 - Jobs Wales;
 - Times online;
 - Guardian online;
 - Golwg 360;
 - Public Finance website;
 - Welsh Government Website;

¹ [Public Audit \(Wales\) Act 2013, Schedule 1, paragraph 6](#)

² [Public Audit \(Wales\) Act 2013, Schedule 1, paragraph 4](#)

- Women on Boards.

9. The advert was posted on 1 November 2018, with a closing date of 23 November 2018. 22 applications were received from 6 women and 16 men. 6 candidates were selected for interview, including the incumbent Board Member eligible to serve a second term on the Board. One candidate withdrew prior to the interview stage.

10. Interviews took place on 8 January and 21 January 2019, at which candidates were required to give a short presentation and were questioned on the criteria set out in the job description. The panel members were:

- Llyr Gruffydd AM, Chair of the Finance Committee;
- Isobel Garner, Chair of Wales Audit Office Board;
- Lowri Williams, Head of Human Resources, National Assembly for Wales.

Recruitment Outcome

11. Following the recruitment process, two candidates were chosen to take up the role of non-executive Members from 16 March 2019, for a maximum period of four years.

12. Prior to the setting of the terms and conditions of appointment for the successful candidates, the Finance Committee consulted with the Director of Governance in the Welsh Government³, who confirmed to the Committee on 25 January 2019 that he was content with the Committee's proposals.

13. The following two candidates were chosen:

Lindsay Foyster – Ms Foyster is a current serving member of the WAO Board, and has extensive experience of operating at Board level within both the third sector and the public sector. She brings over 25 years of senior executive management experience in the third sector with strong strategic planning, change management and people management expertise. This is Ms Foyster's second and final term to the WAO Board and has been offered a further four year term until 2023.

³ The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013, at Schedule 1, paragraph 9(1), requires the Assembly to consult with "an appropriate person with oversight of public appointments" before making such arrangements.

David Francis – Mr Francis has spent the entirety of his career to date working for large FTSE 100 corporates. His past experience includes expertise within strategic planning, internal and external communication, commercial value and risk management. This is Mr Francis’ first appointment to the WAO Board and he has been offered a 4 year term until 2023.

Conclusion 1. The Committee appoints Lindsay Foyster as non-executive Member of the Wales Audit Office Board.

Conclusion 2. The Committee appoints David Francis as non-executive Member of the Wales Audit Office Board.