The Draft Local Audit Bill ad hoc Committee

The Draft Local Audit Bill ad Hoc Committee was appointed by the House of Commons to examine “the draft Local Audit Bill and to Report to parliament by 20 December 2012”.

Membership

Rt Hon Margaret Hodge (Labour, Barking) (Chair)
Mr Richard Bacon (Conservative, South Norfolk)
Mr Clive Betts (Labour, Sheffield South East)
Meg Hillier (Labour, Hackney South and Shoreditch)
Mark Pawsey (Conservative, Rugby)
Mark Reckless (Conservative, Rochester and Strood)
Ian Swales (Liberal Democrats, Redcar)
Valerie Vaz (Labour, Walsall South)
Heather Wheeler (Conservative, South Derbyshire)

Powers

Powers of the Committee of Public Accounts are set out in House of Commons Standing Orders, principally in SO No 152. These are available on the Internet via www.parliament.uk.

Publications

The Reports and evidence of the Committee are published by The Stationery Office by Order of the House. All publications of the Committee (including press notices) are on the Internet at http://www.parliament.uk/pac.

Committee staff

The current staff of the Committee is Adrian Jenner (Clerk), Andrew Gravener (Inquiry Manager), Fiona Nash (inquiry Manager), Samantha Colebrook (Committee Assistant), and Hannah Pearce (Media Officer).

Contacts

All correspondence should be addressed to the Clerk, Draft Local Audit Bill ad Hoc Committee, House of Commons, 7 Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. The telephone number for general enquiries is 020 7219 5708; the Committee’s email address is pubaccom@parliament.uk
Tuesday 23 October 2012

Members present:

Mrs Margaret Hodge, in the Chair

Mr Richard Bacon
Mr Clive Betts
Meg Hillier
Mark Pawsey

Mark Reckless
Ian Swales
Heather Wheeler

1. Declaration of Interests
Members disclosed their interests pursuant to the Resolution of the House of 13 July 1992 (for details see Appendix A).

2. Rules of Confidentiality
Resolved, That members of the Committee take formal note of their obligation to respect the confidential nature of the Committee’s deliberations and for them and their staff to safeguard the confidential nature of the Committee’s unpublished proceedings.

3. Meetings
Resolved, That unless otherwise decided, the Committee meet on Tuesdays at 12.30pm.

4. Admission of the Public
Ordered, That the public be admitted during the examination of witnesses in accordance with Standing Order No.125, unless the Committee otherwise orders.

5. Written Evidence
Ordered, That written evidence received by the Committee belongs to the Committee and can only be published by it or with its authority in accordance with Standing Order No.135, unless the Committee otherwise orders.

6. Use of electronic equipment during Meetings
Resolved, That the Committee will comply with the Liaison Committee agreement of 19 June 2003 regarding use of electronic equipment during meetings.

7. Chair’s delegated powers
Resolved, That the Chair have authority to act on the Committee’s behalf subject, where appropriate, to her actions being reported back to the Committee.

8. Appointment of specialist Advisers
Ordered, That Gillian Fawcett and Tony Travers be appointed Specialist advisers to assist the Committee in its inquiry into the draft Local Audit Bill (for further details see Appendix B).
9. **Briefing by the CLG Bill team**

The Committee were briefed by the CLG Bill Committee on the provisions of the draft Local Audit Bill.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 30 October 2012 at 12.30 pm.

**Tuesday 30 October 2012**

Members present:

Mrs Margaret Hodge, in the Chair

Mr Richard Bacon  
Mr Clive Betts  
Meg Hillier

Mark Pawsey  
Ian Swales  
Heather Wheeler

1. **Forward programme**

The Committee considered this matter.

2. **Draft local Audit Bill**


Robert Black, former Auditor General Scotland, David Walker, former Director of Public Reporting, Audit Commission; Professor David Heald, Aberdeen University; and Jessica Crowe, Executive Director, Centre for Public Scrutiny, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 6 November 2012 at 12.30 pm.]
Tuesday 6 November 2012

Members present:

Mrs Margaret Hodge, in the Chair

Mr Richard Bacon  Ian Swales
Mr Clive Betts    Valerie Vaz
Meg Hillier       Heather Wheeler
Mark Pawsey

1. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Draft local Audit Bill

Carolyn Downs, Chief Executive, Local Government Association, Steve Parkinson, Society of Local Council Clerks, Joanna Simons, Chief Executive, Oxfordshire County Council, and Stephen Hughes, Chief Executive, Birmingham City Council, gave oral evidence.

Richard Douglas, Director-General Policy, Strategy & Finance, NHS, Dr David Bennett, Chief Executive, Monitor, Professor Peter C. Smith, Imperial College, and Sir Robert Naylor, Chief Executive of University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 20 November 2012 at 12.30 pm.]
Tuesday 20 November 2012

Members present:

Mrs Margaret Hodge, in the Chair

Mr Richard Bacon
Mr Clive Betts
Meg Hillier

Ian Swales
Heather Wheeler

1. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.

2. Draft local Audit Bill

Gillian Fawcett, Head of Public Sector, ACCA, Steve Freer, Chief Executive, CIPFA, Paul George, Executive Director, FRC, and Vernon Soare, Executive Director, ICAEW, gave oral evidence.

Sarah Howard, Head of Public Assurance, Grant Thornton LLP, Gareth Davies, Partner Mazars LLP, and Paul Woolston, Senior Partner PwC, gave oral evidence.

Lord Heseltine, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 27 November 2012 at 12.00 pm.]

Tuesday 27 November 2012

Members present:

Mrs Margaret Hodge, in the Chair

Mr Richard Bacon
Mr Clive Betts
Meg Hillier

Ian Swales
Heather Wheeler

1. Forward programme

The Committee considered this matter.
2. **Draft local Audit Bill**

Tom Winsor, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary, gave oral evidence.

Amyas Morse, Comptroller and Auditor General, National Audit office, gave oral evidence.

Rt Hon Eric Pickles MP, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and Brandon Lewis MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Communities and Local Government, gave oral evidence.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 4 December 2012 at 12.00 pm.

**Tuesday 4 December 2012**

Members present:

Mrs Margaret Hodge, in the Chair

Mr Richard Bacon  
Mr Clive Betts  
Mark Pawsey  
Mark Reckless  
Ian Swales  
Heather Wheeler

1. **Draft local Audit Bill: heads of report**

The Committee considered this matter.

[Adjourned till Tuesday 18 December 2012 at 11.00 am.

**Tuesday 18 December 2012**

Members present:

Mrs Margaret Hodge, in the Chair

Mr Clive Betts  
Meg Hillier  
Mark Pawsey  
Mark Reckless  
Ian Swales  
Heather Wheeler
1. **Draft local Audit Bill: pre-legislative scrutiny**

Draft Report, *(Draft local Audit Bill: pre-legislative scrutiny)*, proposed by the Chairman, brought up and read.

*The draft report was agreed to; the formal minutes relating to the Report are published in the First report of the Committee, HC 696.*

[The Committee adjourned.]
APPENDIX A: DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS’ INTERESTS
23 October 2012

Mr Richard Bacon
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
Received from the OECD/Sigma Programme, payment of £3,301 which included a per diem allowance of £324, for speaking at international symposium in Afyonkarahisar from 23 to 25 September 2010 organised by the Turkish National Assembly in collaboration with the OECD/Sigma Programme, the European Commission, the World Bank and others. Airport transfers and one night’s accommodation in Ankara provided by the Government of the Republic of Turkey. Hours: 4 days in total. (Registered 15 March 2012)

Flights to and from Tanzania, plus accommodation and internal flights, with a total value of £976 provided by VSO Carlton House, 27A Carlton Drive, Putney, London SW15 2BS for a volunteer placement for the Agricultural Non-State Actors Forum (ANSAF), 13-30 August 2011. No fee paid. (VSO also provided accommodation and one internal flight for a member of my family, who joined me from 24 to 30 August 2011 to support the work in Tanzania of another charity.) Hours: 18 days, including travel. (Registered 8 October 2012)

Clive Betts
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
Payments from ComRes, Four Millbank, London SW1P 3JA, for completing surveys. All payments are donated directly to my constituency party:
1 March 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
14 March 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
28 March 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
8 May 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
19 May 2011, £100. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
6 June 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
1 July 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
2 November 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
2 December 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
4 January 2012, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 2 February 2012)
13 February 2012, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 9 August 2012)
11 April 2012, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 9 August 2012)
18 July 2012, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 9 August 2012)
Payments from Populus Ltd, 10 Northburgh Street, London EC1V 0AT, for completing surveys. All payments are donated directly to my constituency party:
18 March 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
28 March 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
27 September 2011, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 4 January 2012)
Payment from YouGov, 50 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT, for completing survey:
22, 23 July 2012, £70. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 9 August 2012)

Land and Property
One residential property in London, for which rental income is received.

Margaret Hodge

Registrable shareholdings
Stemcor Holdings Ltd.; international steel trading.

Miscellaneous
I received 17 donations, all of which were below £500, from local businesses for my 2011 Christmas Card competition. These were used to fund prizes for local schools.

Meg Hillier
Overseas visits
Name of donor: (1) Shell International Ltd; (2) Save the Children UK; (3) Royal Institute of International Affairs
Address of donor: (1) Shell Centre, York Rd, London SE1 7NA; (2) 1 St John’s Lane, London EC1M 4AR; (3) Chatham House, 10 St James’s Square, London SW1Y 4LE
Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): (1) £3,000 for flights, accommodation and food; (2) £500 for ground transportation and visa fees; (3) support in kind via personnel for administration and research, estimated at £3,000
Destination of visit: Nigeria
Date of visit: 22 to 27 April 2012
Purpose of visit: Fact-finding visit of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Nigeria
(Registered 25 May 2012)

Land and Property
A property in London from which rental income is received.

Mark Pawsey
Land and Property
Commercial property in Rugby from which rental income is received.

Mark Reckless
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
Payment of £400 from Express Newspapers, 10 Lower Thames St, London EC3R 6EN, for an article. Hours: 1.5 hrs. (Registered 7 September 2012)
Payment of £70 from YouGov, 50 Featherstone St, London EC1Y 8RT, for research survey. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 7 September 2012)
Payment from ComRes, Four Millbank, London SW1P 3JA, for participating in opinion research panel:
27 November 2012, £75. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 5 December 2012)

Ian Swales
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
November 2012, payment of £75 from ComRes, Four Millbank, London SW1P 3JA, for opinion survey. Hours: 45 mins. Payment donated to my constituency party. (Registered 19
Valerie Vaz
Miscellaneous
Solicitor (not practising).

Heather Wheeler
Remunerated employment, office, profession etc
Surveys completed for ComRes, Four Millbank, London SW1P 3JA. Payments donated to South Derbyshire Conservative Association:
August 2011, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
November 2011, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
December 2011, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
January 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
January 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
February 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
May 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
June 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
July 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 25 July 2012)
August 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 7 September 2012)
November 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 11 December 2012)
November 2012, £75. Hours: 45 mins. (Registered 18 December 2012)
Surveys completed for Ipsos MORI, 79-81 Borough Road, London SE1 1FY:
January 2012, payment of £150. donated to South Derbyshire Conservative Association. Hours: 1 hr. (Registered 25 July 2012)
October 2012, payment of £150. donated to South Derbyshire Conservative Association. Hours: 1 hr. (Registered 29 October 2012)
Surveys completed for Populus Ltd, Northburgh House, 10 Northburgh Street, London EC1V 0AT:
July 2012, payment of £75 donated to South Derbyshire Conservative Association. Hours: 30 mins. (Registered 24 August 2012)
Surveys completed for YouGov plc, 50 Featherstone Street, London EC1Y 8RT:
July 2012, payment of £70 donated to South Derbyshire Conservative Association. Hours: 15 mins. (Registered 20 August 2012)

Overseas visits
Name of donor: Jordanian House of Representatives
Address of donor: Al Umah Street, Amman, Jordan
Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): £2,029.45 (covering travel costs, accommodation, subsistence and internal tours)
Destination of visit: Jordan
Date of visit: 8 to 13 April 2012
Purpose of visit: Delegation of All-Party Parliamentary Jordan Group
(Registered 8 May 2012)
Name of donor: United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) with important (unquantified) contributions from Japan, Denmark and Switzerland.
Address of donor: 605 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10158 USA
Amount of donation (or estimate of the probable value): £935, comprising flights with a value of £111, £129 per diem and accommodation with a value of £695
Destination of visit: Istanbul, Turkey
Date of visit: 23-26 May 2012
(Registered 8 June 2012)
Name of donor: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of China (Taiwan)
Address of donor: c/o Taipei Representative Office in the UK, 50 Grosvenor Gardens, London SW1W 0EB
Amount of donation: £3,600, which includes £2,500 for travel to and from Taiwan, £200 for travel within the country, £700 for accommodation and £200 for meals
Destination of visit: Taipei City and Taoyuan County
Date of visit: 18 - 22 May 2012
Purpose of visit: part of a parliamentary delegation at the invitation of the Government of the Republic of China (Taiwan)
(Registered 21 June 2012)

**Land and Property**

Holiday cottage in France. (Registered 14 November 2012)

**Miscellaneous**
Husband, Bob Wheeler, is Leader of South Derbyshire District Council.
APPENDIX A: DECLARATIONS OF SPECIALIST ADVISER’S INTERESTS

Gillian Fawcett
Former employee of the Audit Commission.

Tony Travers
Employment at the London School of Economics
Remunerated consultancy for organisations and institutions in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors; currently New West End Company
Member of commissions for public and private agencies, most recently for Shropshire Council, Cambridgeshire County Council and the Department for Communities and Local Government commission on housing delivery London First commission on infrastructure (Short-term and unremunerated).
Speaker at conferences and seminars (some remunerated)
Freelance writer for several newspapers and periodicals.