

Children's Commissioner for Wales Accounts 2016-17



Directors Report

Introduction

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is an independent children's human rights institution. The principal aim of the Commissioner is to safeguard and promote the rights and welfare of children. Two laws set out rules about how she can carry out her work and give her certain powers. These are the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Children's Commissioner for Wales Act 2001 (which amended the Care Standards Act 2000.)

Here is a summary of the Commissioner's powers

- The power to review and monitor the arrangements for complaints, whistleblowing and advocacy of defined public bodies;
- The power to review the exercise of functions (powers and duties) or proposed exercise of functions of defined public bodies, including Welsh Government;
- The power to examine cases, in respect of individual children;
- The power to provide assistance to individual children; and
- The power to make representations to the First Minister, Welsh Ministers and the Counsel General about any matters affecting the rights and welfare of children which concern her and for which she does not have the power to act.

The Commissioner does not have the power to act in a number of defined circumstances:

- Matters that have not been devolved to the Welsh Government which include immigration and asylum, child poverty, justice and policing, and children in the military;
- Where CAFCASS (the Children and Court Advisory Service) is able to act;
- Where Welsh Ministers have functions in respect of family proceedings; and
- From enquiring about or reporting on any matter that is or has been the subject of legal proceedings.

Professor Sally Holland took up her post as the Commissioner from 20th April 2015, having been appointed by the First Minister, for a seven year term. The remaining senior officers took up appointments between May 2006 and August 2016 and were appointed by the Commissioner under Schedule 2 paragraph 4 of the Care Standards Act 2000.

Senior Officers

The following persons served as the Management Team during the year:

- Professor Sally Holland - Children's Commissioner for Wales;
- Eleri Thomas – Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Children's Commissioner, until 31st May 2016;
- Tony Evans - Head of Corporate Services, until 31st July 2016 and Head of Finance from 1st August 2016;
- Andy Wallsgrove – Head of Practice and Participation;
- Sara Jermin – Head of Communications and Performance, from 1st August 2016;
- Amanda Evans – Head of Human Resources; and
- Hywel Dafydd – Head of Policy and Public Affairs.

Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

The Commissioner's Audit and Risk Assurance Committee provides advice and assurance in respect of corporate governance, risk management and control within the Commissioner's office and the adequacy of the internal and external audit arrangements. It meets at least bi-annually and is made-up of senior officials of the Commissioner's Office and Non-Executive members. The Non-Executive members of the Committee are:

- Wyn Mears – Business Consultant and former Director of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants;
- Ian Summers – Former Partner at the Wales Audit Office;
- Dr Iolo Doull – Consultant Respiratory Paediatrician at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff; and
- Aine Denvir – Child Care Solicitor.

Funding

The Children's Commissioner for Wales is independent of, but funded by the Welsh Government. In 2016-17 the Commissioner received £1.543 million (2015-16: £1.718 million) to fund the Commissioner's activities.

Format of the Accounts

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Paragraph 7(2) Schedule 2 of the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Accounts Direction issued by Welsh Ministers. A copy of that direction can be obtained from Children's Commissioner for Wales, Oystermouth House, Charter Court, Phoenix Way, Swansea, SA7 9FS.

These accounts have been prepared for the period from 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 and reflect the assets, liabilities and resource outturn of the Children's Commissioner. These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Government's Financial Reporting Manual (FRoM) issued by HM Treasury. The accounting policies contained in the FRoM apply International Accounting Standards (IFRS) as adopted or interpreted for the public sector context.

Results for the Year

The Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure shows expenditure, for the period, of £1.409 million (2015-16: £2.048 million). The general fund balance as at the year-end is £215,000 (2015-16: £78,000).

During 2016-17 the Commissioner's staff changed to 20.7 (whole time equivalent) from 23.1 (whole time equivalent) members of staff, which includes full time and part time employees.

Learning and Development

The Commissioner continues to invest in the provision of learning and development opportunities for staff. Through the Commissioner's Appraisal Process all staff are encouraged to identify personal development needs and record these needs on a Personal Development Plan. The Appraisal Policy is a process which links individual performance and development to the objectives of the organisation. The main purpose of this process is to improve every employee's performance and contribution to the achievement of objectives by providing them with the right skills and environment to do their job to the best of their ability.

In addition the Office provides all employees with regular staff development sessions each financial year. These meet its obligations with regards to learning and development that is either dictated by statute or is

considered essential for all staff groups, covering topics, for example, on Child Protection and Safeguarding.

Staff Consultation and Engagement

The Commissioner regularly consults with staff on major changes to the organisation and organisational development priorities. This is achieved through a variety of methods including staff meetings, regular surveys and the intranet. In addition all staff were provided with opportunities as individuals and in groups to contribute to the strategic planning.

Staff Absences

During 2016-17 the sickness absence rate within the Commissioner's office was 2.8 percent (2015-16: 4 percent), based as a percentage of the total available working days.

Sustainability

The Commissioner is committed to the principles as outlined in the Wellbeing and Future Generations Act 2015, which are:

- A prosperous Wales;
- A resilient Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A more equal Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities;
- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language; and
- A globally responsible Wales.

The Commissioner is committed to minimising her Office's impact on the environment wherever possible and seeks to reduce its impact via the following steps:

- Stationery and office resources: staff are encouraged to minimise their use of office consumables whenever possible. Printing and photocopying are kept to the minimum;
- Travel: where practical, meetings are held using video conferencing wherever possible. More than 90 percent of the Commissioner's official journeys are carried out by train or bicycle and she encourages her staff to do the same;
- Energy: the Commissioner encourages all staff to be energy conscious and consider ways of reducing their carbon footprint; and
- Waste disposal: the Commissioner is committed to recycling all waste, subject to external restrictions.

Equal Opportunities

All applications for employment with the Children's Commissioner for Wales are considered on the grounds that all job applicants should have equal opportunity for employment and advancement on the basis of their ability, qualifications and suitability for the work. No job applicant or employee should receive less favourable treatment on grounds of race, colour, sex, sexual orientation, age, marital status, disability, religion, family/domestic responsibilities or working patterns, nor should any individual be disadvantaged by conditions or requirements which cannot be shown to be justifiable.

Auditors

The Children's Commissioner for Wales' accounts are examined and certified by the Auditor General for Wales in accordance with paragraph 9 of Schedule 2 to the Care Standards Act 2000.

Deloitte provides internal audit services for the Commissioner.

During the period no remuneration was paid to the auditors for non-audit work.

Disclosure of Information to the Auditors

So far as the Commissioner's Office is aware, there is no audit information of which the auditors are unaware; and the Office has taken all the steps that it ought to have taken to make itself aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditors are aware of that information.

Personal Data Related Incidents

Within the financial year, there were no reported incidents involving personal data. The Commissioner maintains an information security policy and procedures that ensure incidents related to personal data related incidents are minimised.

Events since the End of the Financial Year

There have been no events since the end of the financial year that affect the understanding of these financial statements.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING OFFICER'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Under Schedule 2 of the Care Standards Act, Welsh Ministers have directed the Children's Commissioner for Wales to prepare for each financial year a statement of accounts in the form and on the basis set out in the Accounts Direction. The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis and must give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Children's Commissioner for Wales and of its income and expenditure, changes in taxpayers' equity and cash flows for the financial year.

In preparing the accounts, the Accounting Officer is required to comply with the requirements of the Government Financial Reporting Manual and in particular to:

- observe the Accounts Direction issued by Welsh Ministers, including the relevant accounting and disclosure requirements, and apply suitable accounting policies on a consistent basis;
- make judgements and estimates on a reasonable basis;
- state whether applicable accounting standards as set out in the Government Financial Reporting Manual have been followed, and disclose and explain any material departures in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

The Commissioner is the Accounting Officer for her office by virtue of paragraph 10 of Schedule 2 to the Care Standards Act 2000. The responsibilities of the Accounting Officer, including responsibility for the propriety and regularity of the public finances for which the Accounting Officer is answerable, for keeping proper records and for safeguarding the Children's Commissioner for Wales' assets, are set out in an Accounting Officers' Memorandum issued by HM Treasury.

ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

This Statement by the Children’s Commissioner for Wales sets out the basis on which the organisation has been established, the way in which it is governed and managed and how it is accountable for what it does.

Governance Structure

Below is a description of our governance structure. Further details about the membership of each group, attendance and respective terms of reference can be accessed here www.chidcomwales.org.uk.



Sally Holland
Children's Commissioner for Wales
- Corporation Sole
- Accounting Officer



Management Team

Comprising: Head of Communications & Performance, Head of Practice, Head of Finance, Head of Policy & Public Affairs, Head of Human Resources

The MT's primary purpose is to provide the Commissioner with support and advice on the strategic direction of the organisation, including contributing to the development of strategic aims and annual work plans. The MT is also responsible for the strategic leadership of the organisation, managing the operational, day-to-day running of the office in line with the organisation's values.



Commissioner's Advisory Panel & Young People's Panel

Chaired by: Margaret Provis, comprising 10-12 adult members & 2-4 young people

Young People's Panel chaired by Malin (in north Wales) and Eve (in south Wales), comprising 15 members aged 11 - 18

Provide independent advice, support, scrutiny and challenge to the Commissioner and her staff, so as to secure the effective delivery of the Children's Commissioner's statutory responsibilities and to act as a critical friend and sounding board for the Commissioner and her staff regarding policies and proposals, informing the policy and strategic priorities.



Audit and Risk Assurance Committee

Chaired by: Wyn Mears

Comprising: 4 - 6 members

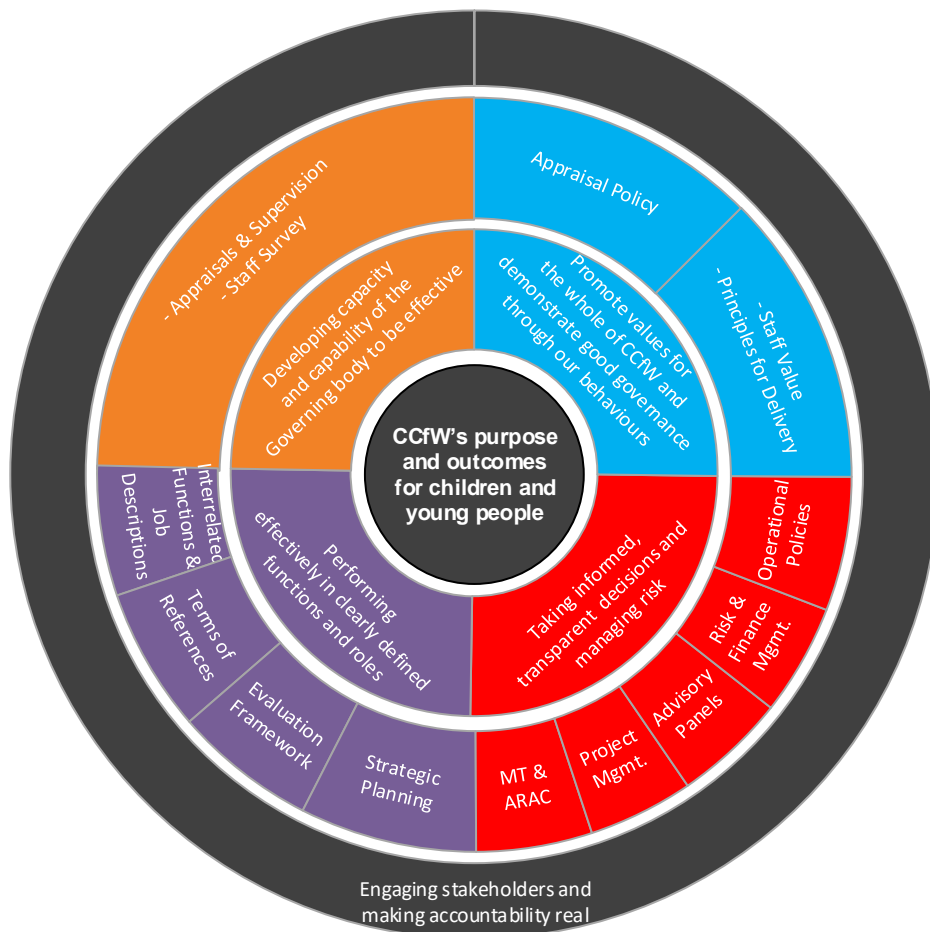
Advise the Commissioner on the strategic processes for risk, control and governance, accounting policies, the accounts, and the planned activity and results of both internal and external audit.

Governance framework

As a public office in receipt of public funds, I am committed to implementing rigorous and transparent accountability and decision-making systems.

My governance framework comprises the systems, processes and values by which the organisation is directed and controlled. These arrangements are firmly rooted in 'The Good Governance for Public Services', highlighted by the Wales Audit Office as a best practice model, and the 'International Framework: Good Governance in the Public Sector'. It also draws on elements from the 'UK Corporate Governance Code'. It builds on the Nolan Principles for the conduct of individuals in public life by setting out six core principles of good governance for public service organisations.

Below are details of the extent to which the organisation lives up to these standards and explains the reasons for adapting the principles to suit the organisation.



Being clear about organisation's purpose and outcomes

Having a clear organisational purpose and set of objectives is a hallmark of good governance. Our strategic planning approach is the systemic approach to determining our goals. It enables the office to fulfil its legislative remit and to deliver against the vision and objectives set out in my three-year plan: 'A Plan for All Children and Young People 2016 – 2019'.

The strategic and annual planning processes provides an overall strategic direction for all functions within the office; and helps to ensure we make the most effective use of organisational resources to maximise our impact for children and young people in Wales.

Engaging stakeholders and making accountability real

In 2015-16 we undertook our biggest ever consultation of children and young people. Over 7000 children, young people and adults took part. Their views and opinions helped shape 'A Plan for All Children and Young People 2016 – 2019', which outlines my strategic objectives for the organisation.

It is my role to be an independent voice of all children and young people in Wales. To be an effective champion, I need to hear directly from children and young people about what I should be speaking out about. The organisation's participation strategy ensures I am working with and speaking up for

children and young people across Wales, whatever their background or beliefs. At a strategic level I have established a young person's advisory panel that advises on and scrutinises my work.

I aspire to a Wales where all children and young people have an equal chance to be the best that they can be. To ensure this aspiration is realised, my team target rights issues on 3 levels:

1. Underpinning policies and laws for children's rights: I will work to influence and change these so that they fulfil the Welsh Government's commitment to putting children's rights at the centre.
2. Effective implementation of these policies and laws throughout Wales and for all groups of children: I will monitor how children's rights are fulfilled, promote best practice and challenge those who do not respect rights.
3. Children and young people's experiences and outcomes: I will listen to children and young people and seek real changes in their everyday quality of life and equal chances to fulfil their potential.

All this work is supported by two comprehensive internal strategies for public affairs and external relations.

Capacity and capability to be an effective organisation

I recognise that governance is strengthened by the participation of people with many different types of knowledge and experience. I am confident, due to our Appraisal and Supervision policies, that all members of staff have the necessary skills, knowledge and capacity to discharge their responsibilities.

All new staff members attend an induction process and we have a rolling learning and development programme for all staff.

Our biennial staff survey also assists the organisation to help measure the employee experience and contributes to the continuous cycle of improvements in relation to people practices.

In 2016, I undertook a restructure due to the following internal and external drivers:

- Efficiency savings required due to impact of a significant 10% budget cut from the Welsh Government
- Recommendations made by the Welsh Government's independent reviews of the powers and remit of the Commissioner (Shooter Review, 2014)
- Findings of the National Assembly for Wales' Public Accounts Committee following evidence sessions with public bodies in the autumn of 2014
- The Commissioner's perceptions of the organisation's working practice as new in post, specifically in relation to a whole organisation approach and the interdependency of teams.

In March 2017, I concluded a review of my 2016 restructure. It reflected that the overwhelming view of staff members was that the restructure has led to positive changes overall for the organisation.

Promoting Values for the Organisation and Demonstrating the Values of Good Governance through Upholding High Standards of Conduct and Behaviour

Developed with staff during 2015, our values and principles for delivery underpin all our operational and staff policies as well as our three-year strategy. They are shared with new staff members during

induction and are communicated externally on our website www.childcomwales.org.uk and in our strategic publications, including our three year strategy.

We are committed to enabling and empowering employees to meet individual, team and strategic goals and consider the process of annual appraisals, objective settings and personal development planning processes to be fundamental to achieving this aim. Our Appraisal Policy is a process that links individual performance and development to the strategic objectives of the organisation. The main purpose of the process is to improve every employee's performance and contribution to the achievements of our strategic objectives by providing them with the right skills and environment to do the job to the best of their ability.

The Management Team regularly reviews and monitor compliance with these policies. These policies are also subject to regular review on a rolling basis. The policies are dated when complete and new review dates are noted following their review.

Taking Informed and Transparent Decisions which are Subject to Effective Scrutiny and Managing Risk

Responsibility for decision-making in the office rests with me, as corporation sole. However, I have delegated aspects of the operational decision making to the Management Team. Roles and responsibilities for all staff are clearly defined in respective job descriptions and within the Governance Framework. All employees have clear conditions of employment and job descriptions, which set out their roles and responsibilities.

All staff are required to work within our project management approach, which ensures our outputs and intended outcomes for children and young people are clearly defined and achieved. A comprehensive project management plan is developed for each project, saved centrally for all staff to access. Details of all our project work can be accessed here www.childcomwales.org.uk.

Discussions and decisions taken by the Management Team and our Audit and Risk Assurance Committee are documented and recorded in minutes, which are shared with all staff on a monthly and quarterly basis respectively. Time sensitive or critical information is shared with the staff team by emails or via our weekly 'Fika' meetings, which involve all staff members. Outcomes of discussions with the advisory panels and Audit and Risk Assurance Committee are also shared with staff, and members of the team are involved in those meetings as appropriate.

The system of internal control in relation to risk is based on a continuous process designed to identify and prioritise the risks to the achievements of the organisation's strategic objectives and compliance with policies and procedures. This involves evaluating the likelihood of those risks being realised and impact should they be realised on the organisation and on children and young people, and managing them efficiently, effectively and economically. Staff, in their role as project managers, are also required to identify risks and issues via our project management approach.

During this year, the Management Team has carried out a thorough risk identification and remodelled the risk register to align fully with the Commissioner's three year strategic plan, following training from our internal audit providers, Deloitte.

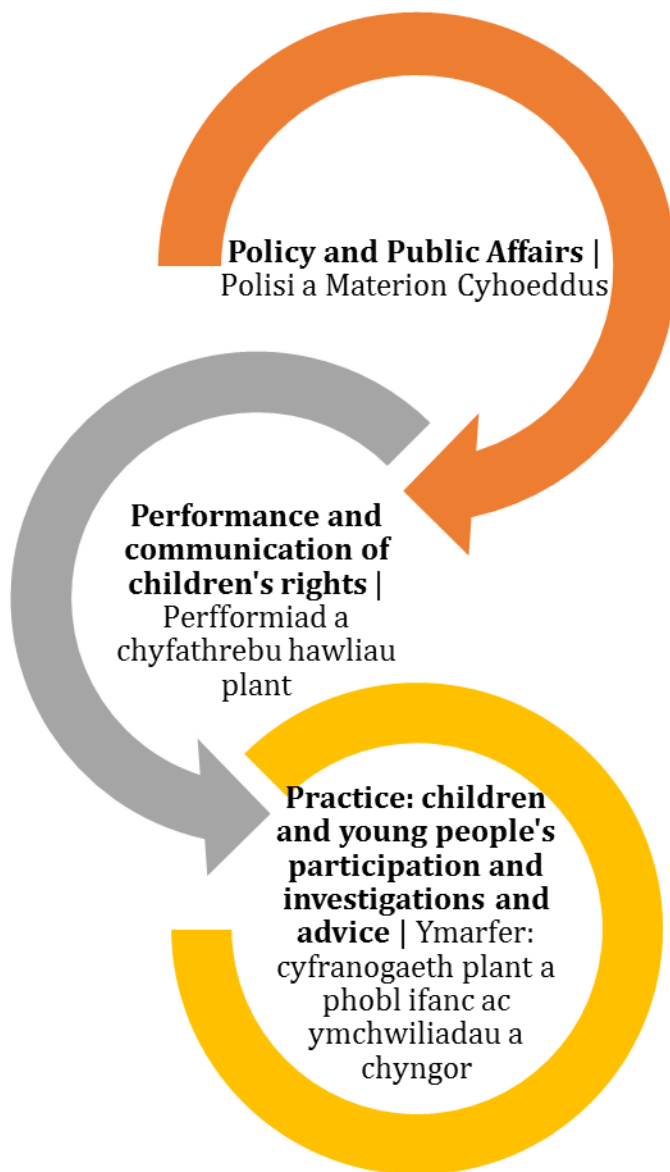
The careful management of risk has been subject to Internal Audit review this year and resulted in a strong assurance rating. Our Audit and Risk Assurance Committee also maintained an overview of the effectiveness of risk management arrangements.

Financial management is based on a framework of regular management information and a set of clear financial procedures, outlined within the organisation's Finance Handbook. Review of management information involves regular budget monitoring and reporting. Comparison of spend against budget is reported to Management Team every month and to the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee on a quarterly basis. Our project management approach also requires all project managers to develop detailed budgets, which are reported on monthly at Management Team.

I also take issues around fraud and maladministration very seriously. We have in place policies on whistleblowing, anti-fraud, code of conduct and complaints.

Performing effectively in clearly defined functions and roles

The organisation consists of three interrelated functions that work together in a whole-team approach. We deliver a work programme that is completely interdependent. Officers take expert roles within this according to their specialism but are dependent on the other parts of the organisation to deliver the programme of work.



All committees and advisory panels associated with the Commissioner have Terms of Reference, which are reviewed annually and are published on our website www.childcomwales.org.uk.

As outlined in our Strategic Planning Policy and Process, the Management Team reviews progress against all our projects, outlined in the annual work plan, every month. On an annual basis, via the Annual Report, I will reflect on the progress made against each of our strategic objectives.

Also created this year was an evaluation framework that enables the organisation to demonstrate the effective delivery of our core work and internal processes and focuses on four elements: the Commissioner's people, organisational processes, financial sustainability and value for money and children and young people. These reports are discussed monthly at Management Team meetings and quarterly by the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee.

In place from this year are two new advisory panels. Contained within their terms of reference is a specific requirement for them to offer considered advice to me and my staff, as necessary, so that our effectiveness is enhanced and my remit is fulfilled.

Review of Effectiveness

As Accounting Officer, I have responsibility for reviewing the effectiveness of the system of governance and in accordance with Managing Public Money in Wales, whether I comply with the Cabinet Office's Corporate Governance Code. This review is informed by the work of the internal auditors and the Management Team who have responsibility for the development and maintenance of the internal control framework, and comments made by the external auditors in their management letter and other reports. I have also been advised on the effectiveness of the system of governance by the work of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. I have undertaken to ensure the continuous improvement of the internal systems and to address any weaknesses as they arise.

The process applied in maintaining and reviewing the effectiveness of the governance framework was:

- Collectively, the Management Team discussed and reviewed the operation of internal financial controls and the quality of the information provided;
- internal audit completed a review of the effectiveness of key internal controls; and
- the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee met in the year and advised on the implications of assurances provided in respect of corporate governance, risk management and control, the adequacy of the internal and external audit arrangements and management responses to audit recommendations.

Deloitte provides the Internal Audit for my office within the period. They operate to Public Sector Internal Audit Standards. They submit regular reports, which include the independent opinion on the adequacy and effectiveness of my system of internal control together with recommendations for improvement.

From my review of the effectiveness there are no significant internal control issues and where applicable, I comply with the principles as outlined in the Corporate Governance Code.

Programme of Improvement for Governance Issues

Along with my Management Team I will continue to monitor the internal control environment and ensure that the governance framework continues to meet the needs of the organisation.

As Accounting Officer I have a legal duty to properly manage the resources made available to me to enable my office to deliver on its statutory obligations. I must also ensure that arrangements have been put in place to ensure that my office is properly managed and governed. This Governance Statement has provided a detailed description of these arrangements.

Certification by Accounting Officer

I am assured that the system of governance in operation within my office during 2016-17 has been robust. From the review of the effectiveness of the systems of internal control I am assured that the present arrangements meet the needs of the office and ensure that they comply with best practice.

Professor Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales and Accounting Officer
27th July 2017

Remuneration and Staff Report

Remuneration of Senior Members of the Management Team

The Welsh Ministers determine the remuneration of the Children’s Commissioner for Wales in accordance with Schedule 2 paragraph 3 to the Care Standards Act 2000.

For other members of the Management Team, remuneration was determined by the Children’s Commissioner for Wales based on guidance from civil service recruitment specialists.

The following sections, which have been subjected to audit, provide details of the remuneration and pension benefits of the most senior officials who have delegated responsibility within the Commissioner’s office:

| | Salary £000* | | Benefits in Kind (to nearest £100)* | | Pension Benefits (to nearest £1000)* | | Total £000* | |
|---|-----------------|-------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|----------------|-------------|
| | 2016- 17 | 2015- 16 | 2016-17 | 2015- 16 | 2016-17 | 2015- 16 | 2016- 17 | 2015- 16 |
| Professor Sally Holland - Children's Commissioner for Wales. | 85-90 | 85-90 | - | - | 35,000 | 33,000 | 120- 125 | 120- 125 |
| Eleri Thomas – Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Commissioner until 31 st May 2016. | 5-10 | 70-75 | - | - | 2,000 | 28,000 | 7-12 | 100- 105 |
| Andy Wallsgrove – Head of Practice and Participation. | 55-60 | 55-60 | - | - | 17,000 | 36,000 | 72-77 | 95-100 |
| Tony Evans – Head of Corporate Services until 31 st July 2016 then Head of Finance from 1 st August 2016. | 45-50 | 55-60 | - | - | 19,000 | 33,000 | 64-69 | 90-95 |
| Sara Jermin – Head of Communication and Performance, from 1 st August 2016**. | 35-40 | - | - | - | - | - | 35-40 | - |

* This information is subject to audit.

**Sara Jermin is a member of the Partnership Pension Scheme £4,500 was paid as employer contributions during the period.

Median Remuneration

| | 2016-17 | | 2015-16 | |
|---|---------|---|---------|--|
| Band of highest paid individual's remuneration (£000) | 85-90 | Band of highest paid individual's remuneration (£000) | 85-90 | |
| Median total | 30,538 | Median total | 34,750 | |
| Ratio | 1:2.87 | Ratio | 1:2.52 | |

I am required to disclose the relationship between the remuneration of the highest-paid individual and the median remuneration of employees. The banded remuneration of the highest-paid individual in 2016-17 was £85-£90,000 (2015-16: £85-£90,000). I have taken the mid-point of this range to compare these amounts, this was 2.87 times (2015-16: 2.51) the median remuneration of employees. Total remuneration includes salary and benefits-in-kind. It does not include employer pension contributions and the cash equivalent transfer value of pensions.

Compensation Paid, Significant Awards to Former Senior Managers

During the period of restructuring a senior manager was made redundant. The compensation paid was included in the 2015-16 financial statements.

Pension Benefits – Civil Service Pension Scheme

| | Real increase in pension* £000 | CETV(i) at 31.3.17* £000 | CETV(i) at 31.3.16* £000 | Real increase/(decrease) in CETV* £000 |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| Professor Sally Holland – Children's Commissioner for Wales from 20 th April 2015. | 0-2.5 | 46 | 22 | 17 |
| Eleri Thomas – Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Commissioner until 31 st May 2016. | 0-2.5 | 114 | 113 | 1 |
| Andy Wallsgrove – Head of Practice and Participation. | 0-2.5 | 515 | 485 | 9 |
| Tony Evans – Head of Corporate Services until 31 st July 2016 the Head of Finance from 1 st August 2016. | 0-2.5 | 371 | 347 | 8 |
| Sara Jermin – Head of Communication and | Note 1 | Note 1 | Note 1 | Note 1 |

Performance, from 1st August 2016.

Note 1: Sara Jermin is a member of the Partnership Pension Scheme £4,500 was paid as employer contributions during the period.

* This information is subject to audit.

Pension Scheme

Pension benefits are provided through the Civil Service pension arrangements. From 30th July 2007, civil servants may be in one of four defined benefit schemes; either a 'final salary' scheme (**classic**, **premium** or **classic plus**); or a 'whole career' scheme (**nuvos**). These statutory arrangements are unfunded with the cost of benefits met by monies voted by Parliament each year; and although these are defined benefit schemes it is not possible to disclose the amount of assets and liabilities of the schemes.

Pensions payable under **classic**, **premium**, **classic plus** and **nuvos** are increased annually in line with changes in the Consumer Prices Index (CPI). Members joining from October 2002 may opt for either the appropriate defined benefit arrangement or a good quality 'money purchase' stakeholder pension with a significant employer contribution (**partnership** pension account).

Employee contributions are set at a percent of pensionable earnings for **classic**, **premium**, **classic plus** and **nuvos**. Benefits in **classic** accrue at the rate of 1/80th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. In addition, a lump sum equivalent to three years' pension is payable on retirement. For **premium**, benefits accrue at the rate of 1/60th of final pensionable earnings for each year of service. Unlike **classic**, there is no automatic lump sum. **classic plus** is essentially a hybrid with benefits in respect of service before 1st October 2002 calculated broadly as per **classic** and benefits for service from October 2002 calculated as in **premium**. In **nuvos** a member builds up a pension based on their pensionable earnings during their period of scheme membership. At the end of the scheme year (31st March) the member's earned pension account is credited with 2.3 percent of their pensionable earnings in that scheme year and the accrued pension is uprated in line with RPI. In all cases members may opt to give up (commute) pension for a lump sum up to the limits set by the Finance Act 2004.

The **partnership** pension account is a stakeholder pension arrangement. The employer makes a basic contribution of between 3 percent and 12.5 percent (depending on the age of the member) into a stakeholder pension product chosen by the employee from a panel of providers. The employee does not have to contribute but where they do make contributions, the employer will match these up to a limit of 3 percent of pensionable salary (in addition to the employer's basic contribution). Employers also contribute a further 0.8 percent of pensionable salary to cover the cost of centrally provided risk benefit cover (death in service and ill health retirement).

The accrued pension quoted is the pension the member is entitled to receive when they reach pension age, or immediately on ceasing to be an active member of the scheme if they are already at or over pension age. Pension age is 60 for members of **classic**, **premium** and **classic plus** and 65 for members of **nuvos**.

Further details about the Civil Service pension arrangements can be found at the website www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk.

(i) Cash Equivalent Transfer Values

A Cash Equivalent Transfer Value (CETV) is the actuarial assessed capitalised value of the pension scheme benefits accrued by a member at a particular point in time. The benefits valued are the member's accrued benefits and any contingent spouse's pension payable from the scheme. A CETV is a payment made by a pension scheme or arrangement to secure pension benefits in another pension scheme or arrangement when the member leaves a scheme and chooses to transfer the benefits accrued in their former scheme. The pension figures shown relate to the benefits that the individual has accrued as a consequence of their total membership of the pension scheme, not just their service in a senior capacity to which disclosure applies. The figures include the value of any pension benefit in another scheme arrangement which the individual has transferred to the Principal Civil Service pension arrangements. They also include any additional pension benefit accrued to the member as a result of their purchasing additional pension benefits at their own cost. CETVs are calculated within the guidelines and framework prescribed by the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries and do not take account of any actual or potential reduction to benefits resulting from Lifetime Allowance Tax which may be due when pension benefits are drawn.

(ii) Real increase in CETV

This reflects the increase in CETV effectively funded by the employer. It does not include any of the increase in accrued pension due to inflation, contributions paid by the employee (including the value of any benefits transferred from another pension scheme arrangement) and uses common market valuation factors for the start and end of the period.

Changes to the Civil Service Pension Scheme

From 1st April 2015 a new pension scheme, called Alpha, came into effect. The Alpha scheme replaces the **classic, premium, classic-plus** and **nuvos** schemes. The majority of staff transferred directly into Alpha on 1st April 2015.

Staff Numbers and Related Costs

a) For the year staff costs consist of:

| | 2016-2017 | | | 2015-2016 |
|---|----------------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|
| | £000 | | | £000 |
| | Permanently Employed Staff | Other | Total | Total |
| Wages and Salaries | 835 | 17 | 852 | 997 |
| Social Security Costs | 76 | - | 76 | 79 |
| Pension Costs | 106 | - | 106 | 302 |
| Sub Total | 1,017 | 17 | 1,034 | 1,378 |
| Less recoveries in respect of outward secondments | (44) | - | (44) | (13) |
| Total Net Costs | 973 | 17 | 990 | 1,365 |

The Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) is an unfunded multi-employer defined benefit scheme but the participating organisations are not able to identify their share of the underlying assets and liabilities. The scheme was last actuarially valued as at 31 March 2007 but since this date, actuarial

valuations of the Scheme were suspended pending the implementation of the Hutton Review recommendations. Details can be found in the Resource Accounts of the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation – www.civilservice-pensions.gov.uk.

For 2016-17, employer's contributions of £77,980 were payable to the PCSPS (2015-16: £168,808) at one of four rates in the range 16.7 percent to 24.3 percent of pensionable pay, based on salary bands. The Scheme Actuary reviews employer contributions usually every four years following a full scheme valuation. The contribution rates are set to meet the cost of the benefits paid during this period to existing pensioners.

Employees can opt to open a partnership pension account, a stakeholder pension with an employer contribution. Employer's contributions of £16,904 were paid to one or more of a panel of appointed stakeholder pension providers (2015-16: £17,040). Employer contributions are age-related and range from 3 to 12.5 percent of pensionable pay (2015-16: 3 to 12.5 percent). Employers also match employee contributions up to 3 percent of pensionable pay. In addition, employer contributions of £972 or 0.8 percent of pensionable pay, were payable to the PCSPS to cover the cost of the future provision of lump sum benefits on death in service and ill health retirement of employees (2015-16: £750 or 0.8 percent). Contributions of £10,481 were due to the partnership pension providers at 31st March 2017, (2015-16: £nil). All these contributions are included in Pension costs.

- b) The average number of whole-time equivalent persons employed (including senior management) for the period was as follows:

| | 2016-2017 £000 | | | 2015-2016 £000 |
|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------|-------------|-------------------|
| | Permanently Employed Staff | Other | Total | Total |
| Directly Employed | 20.7 | - | 20.7 | 23.1 |
| Total | 20.7 | - | 20.7 | 23.1 |

Reporting of Civil Service and Other Compensation Schemes – Exit Packages:

| | 2016-17 | | | 2015-2016 | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| Exit package cost band £000 | Number of compulsory redundancies | Number of other departures agreed | Total number of exit packages by cost band | Number of compulsory redundancies | Number of other departures agreed | Total number of exit packages by cost band |
| < £10 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| £10-£25 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| £25-£50 | - | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| £50-£100 | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 |
| £100-£150 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| £150-£200 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total number of exit packages by type | - | - | - | 1 | 6 | 7 |

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|
| Total resource cost £000 | - | - | - | 79 | 179 | 258 |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|----|-----|-----|

Redundancy and other departure costs have been paid in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme, a statutory scheme made under the Superannuation Act 1972. Where the Commissioner has agreed early retirements, the additional costs are met by the Commissioner and not by the Civil Service pension scheme. Ill-health retirement costs are met by the pension scheme and not included in the table.

The full costs of departure are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure in the year that the decision is made. Amounts payable in future years are credited to a provision which is utilised when the payments are made.

Professor Sally Holland, Children’s Commissioner for Wales and Accounting Officer
27th July 2017

The Certificate and Report of the Auditor General for Wales to the National Assembly for Wales

I certify that I have audited the financial statements of the Children's Commissioner for Wales for the year ended 31 March 2017 under paragraph 9 (2) of schedule 2 to the Care Standards Act 2000. These comprise the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure, Statement of Financial Position, the Statement of Cash Flows, Statement of Changes in Taxpayers Equity and related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out within them. I have also audited the information in the Remuneration and Staff Report that is described in that report as having been audited.

Respective responsibilities of the Accounting Officer and auditor

As explained more fully in the Statement of Accounting Officer's Responsibilities, the Accounting Officer is responsible for preparing the financial statements, in accordance with the Care Standards Act 2000 and Welsh Ministers' directions made there under and for ensuring the regularity of financial transactions.

My responsibility is to audit, certify and report on the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). These standards require me to comply with the Financial Reporting Council's Ethical Standards for Auditors.

Scope of the audit of the financial statements

An audit involves obtaining evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or error. This includes an assessment of: whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Children's Commissioner for Wales' circumstances and have been consistently applied and adequately disclosed; the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by the Children's Commissioner for Wales and the overall presentation of the financial statements.

In addition, I am required to obtain evidence sufficient to give reasonable assurance that the expenditure and income have been applied to the purposes intended by the National Assembly for Wales and the financial transactions conform to the authorities which govern them.

In addition I read all the financial and non-financial information in the Director's Report, Annual Governance Statement and Remuneration and Staff Report to identify material inconsistencies with the audited financial statements 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 certificate and report.

Opinion on Financial Statements

In my opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the Children's Commissioner for Wales' affairs as at 31 March 2017 and of its net expenditure, for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Welsh Ministers' directions issued under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Opinion on Regularity

In my opinion, in all material respects, the expenditure and income in the financial statements have been applied to the purposes intended by the National Assembly for Wales and the financial transactions recorded in the financial statements conform to the authorities which govern them.

Opinion on other matters

In my opinion:

- the part of the Remuneration and Staff Report to be audited has been properly prepared in accordance with Welsh Ministers' directions issued under the Care Standards Act 2000; and
- the information in the Director's Report, Annual Governance Statement and Remuneration and Staff Report is consistent with the financial statements.

Matters on which I report by exception

I have nothing to report in respect of the following matters which I report to you if, in my opinion:

- the Annual Governance Statement does not reflect compliance with Welsh Ministers' guidance;
- adequate accounting records have not been kept;
- the financial statements and the part of the Remuneration and Staff Report to be audited are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns;
- information specified by Welsh Ministers regarding the remuneration and other transactions is not disclosed; or
- I have not received all of the information and explanations I require for my audit.

Report

I have no observations to make on these financial statements.

Huw Vaughan Thomas
Auditor General for Wales
1 August 2017

24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9LJ

Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure
for the year ended 31 March 2017

| Expenditure | Note | 2016-17 | 2015-16 |
|--|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | £000 | £000 |
| Administration costs: | | | |
| Staff Costs | Remuneration Report | 990 | 1,365 |
| Depreciation | 2.2 | 11 | 21 |
| Other Administration Costs | 2.1 | 408 | 662 |
| | | <u>1,409</u> | <u>2,048</u> |
| Income | | | |
| Income from Activities | | - | - |
| Other Income | | - | - |
| | | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Net Expenditure | | 1,409 | 2,048 |
| Interest payable/receivable | | - | - |
| Net Expenditure after interest | | 1,409 | 2,048 |
| Other Comprehensive Expenditure | | | |
| | | | |
| Net gain/(loss) on revaluation of Plant and Equipment | | - | - |
| Total Comprehensive Expenditure for the year ended 31st March 2017 | | <u>1,409</u> | <u>2,048</u> |

All income and expenditure is derived from continuing operations. There are no gains or losses other than those reported in the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure.

The Commissioner receives funding from the Welsh Government.

The notes on pages 29 to 35 form part of these accounts

Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2017

| | Note | 2017 | | 2016 | |
|--|------|-------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|
| | | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Non-current assets: | | | | | |
| Property, plant and equipment | 4 | | 9 | | 16 |
| Current assets: | | | | | |
| Trade and other receivables | 5 | 60 | | 131 | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | 6 | <u>329</u> | <u>389</u> | <u>204</u> | <u>335</u> |
| Total assets | | | <u>398</u> | | <u>351</u> |
| Current liabilities: | | | | | |
| Trade and other payables | 7 | <u>(92)</u> | <u>(92)</u> | <u>(75)</u> | <u>(75)</u> |
| Total assets less current liabilities | | | <u>306</u> | | <u>276</u> |
| Non-Current liabilities: | | | | | |
| Provision for liabilities and charges | 13 | <u>(91)</u> | <u>(91)</u> | <u>(198)</u> | <u>(198)</u> |
| Total assets less total liabilities | | | <u>215</u> | | <u>78</u> |
| Taxpayer's equity: | | | | | |
| General fund | | | <u>215</u> | | <u>78</u> |

Professor Sally Holland, Children's Commissioner for Wales and Accounting Officer
27th July 2017

The notes on pages 29 to 35 form part of these accounts

Statement of Cash Flows
for the period 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017

| | | 2016- 2017 | 2015- 2016 |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|----------------|
| | | £000 | £000 |
| | Note | | |
| Cash flows from operating activities | | | |
| Net Expenditure | Remuneration Report/2 | 1,409 | 2,048 |
| Adjustment for non-cash transactions | 2 | (11) | (110) |
| Increase/(decrease) in trade and other receivables | 5 | (71) | 80 |
| (Increase)/decrease in trade payables | 7 | (17) | 45 |
| Use of Provisions | 13 | <u>107</u> | <u>23</u> |
| Net cash outflow from operating activities | | <u>1,417</u> | <u>2,086</u> |
| Cash flows from investing activities | | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment* | 4 | <u>1</u> | <u>11</u> |
| Net cash outflow from investing activity | | <u>1</u> | <u>11</u> |
| Cash flows from financing activities | | | |
| Financing from the Welsh Government | | <u>(1,543)</u> | <u>(1,718)</u> |
| Net Financing | | <u>1,418</u> | <u>2,097</u> |
| Net increase/(decrease) in cash and cash equivalents | 6 | <u>125</u> | <u>(379)</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period | | <u>204</u> | <u>583</u> |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | | <u>329</u> | <u>204</u> |

*Purchase of additional assets in year excludes those assets received in year but paid for in cash in the following financial period.

The notes on pages 29 to 35 form part of these accounts

**Statement of Changes in Taxpayers' Equity for the year ended 31st
March 2017**

| | Note | General Fund £000 |
|---|------|----------------------|
| Balance as at 31st March 2015 | | 408 |
| Funding from Welsh Government | | 1,718 |
| Comprehensive net expenditure for the year | | (2,048) |
| Balance as at 31st March 2016 | | 78 |
| Changes in Taxpayers' Equity 2016-2017 | | |
| Funding from Welsh Government | | 1,543 |
| Comprehensive net expenditure for the year | | (1,409) |
| Adjustment for item not passing through net expenditure | | 3 |
| Balance at 31st March 2017 | | 215 |

The notes on pages 29 to 35 form part of these accounts

Notes to the Accounts

1. Statement of Accounting Policies

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Government's Financial Reporting Manual (FReM) issued by HM Treasury. The accounting policies contained in the FReM apply International Accounting Standards (IFRS) as adopted or interpreted for the public sector context. Where the FReM permits a choice of accounting policy, the accounting policy which has been judged to be most appropriate to the particular circumstances of the Commissioner for the purpose of giving a true and fair view has been selected. They have been applied consistently in dealing with items considered material in relation to the accounts.

We have considered the impact of standards and interpretations which have been issued but are not yet effective and which have not been adopted early by the Commissioner. With the exception of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) IFRS16 Leases, the Commissioner anticipates that the adoption of these Standards and interpretations in future periods will have no material impact on the financial statements. The impact of IFRS16, which has been issued by the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) but not yet adopted by the European Union and will apply from 2019-20, is not reasonably estimable at this stage.

The particular accounting policies adopted by the Children's Commissioner for Wales are described below.

1.1 Accounting Convention

These accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention as in the opinion of the Children's Commissioner for Wales the effect of the revaluation of fixed assets at their value to the organisation by reference to their current cost is considered to be immaterial.

1.2 Funding

The only source of funding for the Children's Commissioner for Wales is from the Welsh Government via an annual grant, which is credited to the general fund when the grant is received. The grant is recognised in the period in which services are provided.

1.3 Property, Plant and Equipment

The Commissioner has valued all non-current assets at historic cost as any revaluation adjustments are, in the Commissioner's opinion, not material. The minimum level for capitalisation of individual assets is £1,000. Large numbers of the same type of asset have been grouped together in determining if they fell above or below the threshold.

1.4 Depreciation

Depreciation is provided at rates calculated to write off the value of non-current assets by equal instalments over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| • ICT Equipment | 3 years |
| • Furniture | 5 years |
| • Office Equipment | 5 years |
| • Fixtures & Fittings | 5 years |
| • Vehicles | 5 years |

A full year's depreciation is charged in the year of acquisition.

1.5 Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure

Operating income and expenditure is that which relates directly to the operating activities of the Commissioner. It comprises charges for goods and services provided on a full cost basis. All expenditure is classed as administration expenditure.

1.6 Value Added Tax

The Commissioner is not registered for VAT. Expenditure and fixed asset purchases are accounted for VAT inclusive, as VAT is irrecoverable.

1.7 Pensions

The Commissioner's staff are covered by the provisions of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS). The PCSPS is a defined benefit scheme. The cost of the defined benefit element of the scheme is recognised on a systematic and rational basis over the period during which it derives benefit from employees' services by payment to the PCSPS of amounts calculated on an accruing basis. Liability for payment of future benefits is a charge on the PCSPS. In respect of the defined contribution elements of the scheme, the Children's Commissioner recognises the contributions payable for the year; these amounts are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure in the year of payment.

1.8 Leases

Leases of assets where substantially all risks and rewards of ownership of a leased asset are borne by the Commissioner are classified as finance leases. The asset is recorded as a tangible fixed asset and a debt is recorded to the lessor of the minimum lease payments. Payments are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure and a finance charge is made based upon the interest rate implicit in the lease.

Operating lease rentals are charged to the Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure in equal amounts over the lease term.

1.9 Segmental Reporting

The Commissioner's Office operates in Wales and deals with issues that impact upon children and young people in Wales. The Statement of Comprehensive Net Expenditure and associated notes reflects the segments that the operating results are reported.

1.10 Staff Expenses

The Commissioner provides for short term compensated absences unused at the year-end.

1.11 Provisions

The Commissioner provides for legal or contractual obligations which are of uncertain timing or amounts at the balance sheet date, on the basis of best estimate of the expenditure required to settle the obligation.

1.12 Cash and Cash Equivalent

The Commissioner holds cash which is deposited in a commercial bank account upon receipt. Petty cash is also held at each of the Commissioner's offices.

2. Other Administration Costs

| | 2016-2017 £000 | 2015-2016 £000 (Restated) |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2.1 Administration costs: | | |
| Premises | 100 | 124 |
| Office | 56 | 75 |
| Training and recruitment | 21 | 36 |
| Travel and subsistence | 11 | 26 |
| External audit's remuneration | 18 | 19 |
| Internal auditor's remuneration | 10 | 10 |
| Communication | 40 | 44 |
| ICT equipment | 13 | 18 |
| Other | 113 | 166 |
| Legal and professional fees | 26 | 55 |
| | 408 | 573 |
| 2.2 Non-cash items: | | |
| - depreciation charge on ordinary assets | 11 | 21 |
| - loss on disposal of fixed assets | - | - |
| - in year provision made | - | 89 |
| | 11 | 110 |
| | 419 | 683 |

*The prior year figures have been restated to reflect a disclosure adjustment between budget lines and ledger codes.

3. Segmental Information

The Commissioner's office operates in Wales and deals with issues that impact upon children and young people in Wales. It is therefore the Commissioner's opinion that her office only operates in one segment as reported.

4. Property, Plant and Equipment

| | IT Equipment | Fixtures & Fittings | Office Furniture and Equipment | Transport Equipment | Total |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|---|------------------------|-------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Cost | | | | | |
| At 1 April 2016 | 273 | 211 | 271 | 49 | 804 |
| Additions | 3 | - | 1 | - | 4 |
| Disposals | (87) | (14) | (61) | (49) | (211) |
| At 31 st March 2017 | 189 | 197 | 211 | - | 597 |
| Depreciation | | | | | |
| At 1 st April 2016 | 262 | 208 | 269 | 49 | 788 |
| Charged in year | 8 | 1 | 2 | - | 11 |
| Disposals | (87) | (14) | (61) | (49) | (211) |
| At 31 st March 2017 | 183 | 195 | 210 | - | 588 |
| Net book value At 31 st March 2016 | 11 | 3 | 2 | - | 16 |
| Net book value At 31 st March 2017 | 6 | 2 | 1 | - | 9 |
| Asset financing: | | | | | |
| Owned | | | | | |
| Net book value At 31 st March 2017 | 6 | 2 | 1 | - | 9 |
| Owned | | | | | |
| Net book value At 31 st March 2016 | 11 | 3 | 2 | - | 16 |

All assets are owned by the Commissioner, there are no assets financed through a finance lease.

5. Trade Receivables

| | 2016-2017 £000 | 2015-2016 £000 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Amounts falling due within one year: | | |
| Trade and other receivables | - | 89 |
| Prepayments and accrued income | 60 | 42 |
| | <u>60</u> | <u>131</u> |

6. Cash and Cash Equivalents

| | 2016-2017 £000 | 2015-2016 £000 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| Balance at 1st April | 204 | 583 |
| Net change in cash and cash equivalent balances | 125 | (379) |
| Balance at 31st March | <u>329</u> | <u>204</u> |

All balances as at 31st March 2017 were held with a Commercial bank and cash in hand.

7. Trade Payables and Other Current Liabilities

| Amounts falling due within one year | 2016-2017 £000 | 2015-2016 £000 |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Taxation and social security | 22 | 18 |
| Trade payables | 16 | 31 |
| Accruals | 54 | 26 |
| | <u>92</u> | <u>75</u> |

8. Commitments under Leases

Operating Leases

The Commissioner was committed to making the following payments in respect of operating leases expiring

| | 2016-2017 £000 | | 2015-2016 £000 | |
|---|---------------------|----------|---------------------|----------|
| | Land & Buildings | Other | Land & Buildings | Other |
| Obligations under operating leases: | | | | |
| Not later than one year | 50 | 1 | 59 | - |
| Later than one year and not later than five years | 166 | 5 | 199 | - |
| Later than five years | - | - | 17 | - |
| | <u>216</u> | <u>6</u> | <u>275</u> | <u>-</u> |

9. Financial Instruments

IFRS7, Financial Instruments, requires disclosure of the role which financial instruments have had during the period in creating or changing the risks an entity faces in undertaking its activities. Because of the non-trading nature of the Commissioner's activities and the way in which her operations are financed, her office is not exposed to the degree of financial risk faced by business entities. Moreover, financial instruments play a much more limited role in creating or changing risk than would be typical of the listed companies to which IFRS7 mainly applies. The Commissioner has very limited powers to borrow or invest surplus funds and financial assets and liabilities are generated by day-to-day operational activities and are not held to change the risks she faces in undertaking her activities.

Liquidity Risk

The Commissioner's net revenue and capital resource requirements are financed by the Welsh Government. Her office is not therefore exposed to significant liquidity risks.

Interest-rate Risk

The Commissioner's financial assets and liabilities are not exposed to interest-rate risks.

Foreign Currency Risk

The Commissioner's financial assets and liabilities are not exposed to foreign currency risks.

Fair Values

There is no difference between the book values and fair values of the Commissioner's financial assets and liabilities as at 31st March 2017.

10. Capital Commitments

There were no capital commitments as at 31st March 2017.

11. Contingent Liabilities

There were no contingent liabilities as at 31st March 2017.

12. Related Party Transactions

The Welsh Government is a related party, the Commissioner received her sole source of funding from the Welsh Government; she received £1.543 million during the period. The Commissioner has had a small number of material transactions during the period with HM Revenue and Customs (Tax and National Insurance payments); and the Cabinet Office (payments in respect of the Principle Civil Service Pension Scheme).

There were no material transactions with organisations in which senior staff, or any of their family, held positions of influence.

13. Provisions for Liabilities and Charges

| | Early Departure | Other | Total |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Balance as at 1 April 2016 | 192 | 6 | 198 |
| Use of provision | (101) | (6) | (107) |
| In year provision | - | - | - |
| Balance as at 31 st March | 91 | - | 91 |
| 2017 | | | |

Analysis of Expected Timings of Provisions

| | Early Departure | Other | Total |
|---|------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| | £000 | £000 | £000 |
| Not later than one year | 9 | - | 9 |
| Later than one year and not later than five years | 82 | - | 82 |
| Later than five years | - | - | - |
| Balance as at 31 st March | 91 | - | 91 |
| 2016 | | | |

Early Departure Costs

The Commissioner meets the additional cost of benefits beyond the normal Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme (PCSPS) benefits in respect of employees who retire early by paying the required amounts annually to the PCSPS over the period between early departure and normal retirement age. The Commissioner provides for this in full when the early departure becomes binding by establishing a provision for the estimated payments.

14. Events after the Reporting Period

There were no events between the statement of financial position date and the date the accounts were signed that impact upon these statements. The Accounting Officer authorised these financial statements for issue on 27th July 2017.