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Mr Jack Straw
City and County of Swansea
Civic Centre
Oystermouth Road
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Pages	1 of 2

Dear Mr Straw

Annual Audit Letter – City and County of Swansea 2014-15

This letter summarises the key messages arising from the Auditor General for Wales' statutory responsibilities under the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004, and reporting responsibilities under the Code of Audit Practice.

The Authority complied with its responsibilities relating to financial reporting and use of resources

It is the Authority's responsibility to:

- put systems of internal control in place to ensure the regularity and lawfulness of transactions and to ensure that its assets are secure;
- maintain proper accounting records;
- prepare a Statement of Accounts in accordance with relevant requirements; and
- establish and keep under review appropriate arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources.

The Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004 requires the Auditor General for Wales to:

- provide an audit opinion on the accounting statements;
- review the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources; and
- issue a certificate confirming the completion of the audit of the accounts.

Local authorities in Wales prepare their accounting statements in accordance with the requirements of the CIPFA/LASAAC Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom. This code is based on International Financial Reporting Standards. On 28 September 2015, the Auditor General for Wales issued an unqualified audit opinion on the accounting statements confirming that they present a true and fair view of the Authority's and the Pension Fund's financial position and transactions. This report is contained within the Statement of Accounts. The key matters arising from the accounts

audit were reported to members of the Audit Committee in the Audit of Financial Statements report on 21 September 2015.

The Auditor General for Wales is satisfied that the Authority has appropriate arrangements in place to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources

The consideration of the Authority's arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness has been based on the audit work undertaken on the accounts as well as placing reliance on the work completed as part of the Improvement Assessment under the Local Government (Wales) Measure 2009. The Annual Improvement Report will highlight areas where the effectiveness of these arrangements has yet to be demonstrated or where improvements could be made.

The Auditor General for Wales issued a certificate confirming that the audit of the accounts has been completed on 28 September 2015.

Work to date on certification of grant claims and returns has not identified significant issues that would impact on the 2015-16 accounts or key financial systems

A more detailed report on grant certification work will follow in 2016 once this year's programme of certification work is complete.

The financial audit fee for 2014-15 is currently expected to be in line with the agreed fee set out in the Annual Audit Outline.

Yours sincerely



Kevin Williams

**PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP
For and on behalf of the Auditor General for Wales**

cc. Cllr. Rob Stewart