

Scrutiny of LAs use of compromise agreements

11 October 2013

Further to my email of 7 October 2013, I am now in a position to respond to your request for information set out in your email of 3 October 2013, which was for:

Please can you confirm whether the WAO has been involved in the scrutiny of any local authority in Wales in respect of their use of compromise agreements to secure staff exits and the monies used to fund these arrangements.

Please name any local authority which has been audited, when the audit took place and provide a summary of any instructions issued.

The Auditor General for Wales (Wales Audit Office) does not hold recorded information that meets the description of your request because we have not scrutinised a local authority's use of compromise agreements per se. The appointed auditor of local authorities in Wales may have looked at some individual compromise agreements as part of his audit of accounts disclosures at certain local authorities, but he has not scrutinised local authorities' wider use of such agreements. I should explain that the appointed auditor is appointed by the Auditor General, but is a separate office holder, with his own statutory functions. As well as being a legally separate person, the appointed auditor is not a public authority under the Freedom of Information Act. Therefore you do not have a right of access to information that the appointed auditor holds; any disclosure is discretionary and subject to the restrictions on disclosure provided by section 54 of the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2004.

If you have any queries, or questions about my handling of your request, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Ian Phillips