



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Public Accounts Committee
Room 344

Parliament Buildings

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From: Lucia Wilson
Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee

To: Keith McBride
Clerk to the Health Committee

Date: 9 September 2021

Dear Keith,

The committee agreed to hold an inquiry into the NIAO report on 'Addiction Services'. The evidence session has been confirmed with the Department and is scheduled to take place on Thursday 21st October 2021.

As you will be aware, PAC has what is referred to as "primacy" over the reports of the Northern Ireland Audit Office. In effect, PAC therefore determines how the reports are disposed of on behalf of the Assembly. It prioritises reports for its own forward work programme and delays or refers others.

In this inquiry, the PAC's will hear evidence from the Accounting Officer and other witnesses as appropriate before finalising its report and recommendations.

These recommendations will be answered by Government in a Memorandum of Reply (MOR) two months after the launch of the Committee's report. (The Committee considers the MOR and sometimes seeks clarification of the response as the final stage of the inquiry).

At this juncture, it is open to other Committees to develop a programme of work based on the findings of the C&AG and of the Committee.

Please let me know if you sense your Committee will wish to take up this strand of work when PAC has completed its inquiry, so that I can keep you apprised of progress and the likely publication date of PAC's report.

Please contact me if you need to discuss.



Lucia Wilson

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