



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

Public Accounts Committee

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**From: Lucia Wilson
Clerk to the Public Accounts Committee**

**To: Eilis Haughey
Clerk to the Committee for Health**

Date: 14 September 2020

Subject: Public Accounts Committee Inquiry into Addiction Services

Dear Eilis

At its meeting on 10 September 2020, the Public Accounts Committee considered its draft forward work programme.

As part of the forward work programme, the committee agreed to hold an inquiry into the NIAO report on *Addiction Services*. It is anticipated that the committee will commence its inquiry after Halloween recess.

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 to statutory committees.

In this inquiry, the PAC’s will hear evidence from the Accounting Officer and other relevant witnesses 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 on the response at this 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 PAC.

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.

Kind Regards

Lucia

Lucia Wilson

Room 371

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