
From: Casey JG (James)
Sent: 07 August 2008 09:44
To: Johnston CM (Carole) (Transport); Ramsay J (John); Houston G (Guy)
Subject: RE: Audit Scotland Report
Attachments: 080807 AS para 15.doc

Carole,

Thanks for the opportunity to comment on this. I think paragraph 15 is much too harsh on TS as it has been written after the event and with the benefit of hindsight. It also, by focusing on central government funds being adversely affected, ignores that the other side of the entry (i.e the cash) was still in the public sector in Scotland. I've proposed alternative wording in tracking mode on the attached. John Ramsay has been out of the office for a few days, although I understand he is picking up emails while working in Edinburgh - I've asked him to comment / confirm some parts of the attached. Perhaps you could indicate your timescale for getting back to AS.

Paragraph 14 is correct. However, it talks of an error, then of these errors cancelling. Also they say the effect on the balance sheet is nil - and are silent on the Operating Cost Statement (which similarly is unaffected). I'd be happier (and it would be more succinct and more correct) if they revised the last sentence to read "However, the net effect of the Financial Statements is nil"

If you have time, I'd await John Ramsay's contribution to the attached before reverting to Audit Scotland - If you are pressed for time, I'd advise you run with my edits.

Regards, - Let me know if anything further is needed.

Jim