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Our ref: NS/mw
Your ref:

DRAFT

Mr Steve O'Donoghue
Director of Finance
Board and Auditor General for Wales
Wales Audit Office
24 Cathedral Road
Cardiff
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22 September 2017

Dear Mr O'Donoghue

Consultation on Fees 2018/19

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your fee scale proposals for 2018/19 for which you requested comment by 22 September. We note the positive steps you are taking on reducing the financial burdens of audit inspections year on year, which is reflected in the reduced fee scales for the Police & Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable.

We are sure you will be aware that the Police Service in Wales has had a significant reduction in central funding and there are further reductions predicted. The Police service has responded by delivering real reductions through efficiencies across the front line and support functions, whilst improving performance. Indeed, the audit process has confirmed this.

The specific elements you request our response has been considered by the Joint Audit Committee and is detailed below:

National Fraud Initiative:

The NFI is funded by the National Assembly and is therefore a non chargeable service to the Chief Constable and the Commissioner. We support the continuation of this approach.

Charges for PCCs and Chief Constables

The proposal presents a cost reduction of £3,000 on the median and we support this approach.

Continued!

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We propose that the Police service and WAO continue to work together to establish the necessary reporting and accounting requirement to help minimise the audit burden and the consequent fee implications.

The Chief Financial Officers across the Police service in Wales will continue to adopt standard procedures to reduce the audit burden.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Stephens
Assistant Chief Officer – Resources
Office of the Chief Constable

Darren Garwood-Pask
Treasurer & Deputy Chief Executive
Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner