

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date:

Thursday, 11 December 2014

Meeting time:

09.00

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



For further information please contact:

Sarah Beasley

Committee Clerk

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Agenda

Private pre-meeting (9.00 – 9.15)

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

2 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report 2013/2014

(09.15 – 10.15) (Pages 1 – 10)

Nick Bennett, Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

Annual report 2013/2014

[https://www.ombudsman-](https://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/~/_media/Files/AnnualReports_en/PSOW%20Annual%20Report%202013-14%20Final%20for%20laying%20and%20website%20English.ashx)

[wales.org.uk/~/_media/Files/AnnualReports_en/PSOW%20Annual%20Report%202013-14%20Final%20for%20laying%20and%20website%20English.ashx](https://www.ombudsman-wales.org.uk/~/_media/Files/AnnualReports_en/PSOW%20Annual%20Report%202013-14%20Final%20for%20laying%20and%20website%20English.ashx)

3 Papers to note (Pages 11 – 13)

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

5 Public Services Ombudsman for Wales Annual Report 2013/2014 – discussion of evidence (10.15 – 10.25)

Break (10.25 – 10.30)

6 Factual Briefing: Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper – Public Services Staff Commission (10.30 – 11.00)

Judith Cole, Deputy Director, Reforming Local Government Programme: Finance

Robin Jones, Bill Policy and Projects Team, Local Government Democracy Division

Devolution, Democracy and Delivery White Paper – Public Services Staff Commission

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dpsp/consultation/141021-staff-commission-consultation-en.pdf>

Statement by the Minister for Public Services, 21 October 2014

<http://www.assembly.wales/en/bus-home/pages/rop.aspx?meetingid=2756&assembly=4&c=Record of Proceedings&startDt=21/10/2014&endDt=21/10/2014#174435>

7 Consideration of forward work programme (11.00 – 11.10) (Pages 14 – 21)

8 Inquiry into Poverty in Wales: Summary of evidence received on Strand 1 of the inquiry (11.10 – 11.20) (Pages 22 – 26)

9 Gender-based Violence, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Bill – consideration of Stage 2 proceedings in Committee (11.20 – 11.30) (Pages 27 – 32)

10 Consideration of the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 3): Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill (11.30 – 11.40) (Pages 33 – 34)

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Agenda Item 3

11 December 2014 – Papers to note cover sheet

Paper No:	Issue	From	Action Point
Public papers to note			
1	The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2015	Chair of Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee to the Minister for Public Services	In response to the Minister for Public Services' letter dated 17 November, which was considered at the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee meeting on 24 November 2014.

**Y Pwyllgor Materion Cyfansoddiadol a Deddfwriaethol
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee**

Leighton Andrews AM
Minister for Public Services
Welsh Government
5th Floor, Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

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Wales



1 December 2014

Dear Leighton

The Council Tax Reduction Schemes (Prescribed Requirements and Default Scheme) (Wales)(Amendment) Regulations 2015

Thank you for your letter of 17 November, which we considered at our meeting on 24 November 2014.

As we have made clear in the past, we are always prepared to work flexibly to assist the Welsh Government, balancing that approach with our obligation to scrutinise legislation effectively and in an open and transparent way.

In order to provide the best chance of reporting early in January, it would be helpful if your lawyers could share, on a confidential basis, the current draft of the regulations with our lawyers in the Commission as soon as possible. This approach is one we have been using regularly to good effect with Welsh Government lawyers generally over the last few years, as it has proven to facilitate and improve the efficiency of the scrutiny process.

In light of the final paragraph of your letter and our report of May 2013, *Inquiry into the Council Tax Reduction Schemes Regulations*, it would be helpful to know what progress you consider has been made in securing improvements to the engagement between the Welsh Government and Department of Work and Pensions, particularly with a view to ensuring that you can provide us with drafts of the regulations, with or without the appropriate figures, at the earliest opportunity.

Bae Caerdydd
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I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Melding". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

David Melding AM
Chair

Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Finance and Government Business

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: LF/JH/1243/14

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 December 2014

Dear Christine,

**Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No.3)
Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill – Public Sector Exit Payments**

On 18 November 2014, the Business Committee agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 29.4, to invite the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee to consider and report on the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No 3) for the Small Business, Enterprise and Employment Bill in relation to Public Sector Exit Payments.

As part of the scrutiny process, I wish to make the Committee aware of recent amendments to the Public Sector Exit Payment provisions within the Bill which were debated in Parliament on 19 November. The amendments, now included in Clause 150, enable regulations made under the Bill to include provision that would prevent an exit payee, covered by the regulations, from taking up new public service employment, office or contract before they have made arrangements to repay their exit payment.

Details of the relevant amendments tabled by the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills are in the House of Commons Notices of Amendments given on Thursday 13 November (amendments 61, 62, 63 and 64), and can be found at the link to the Parliament website below:

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/cbill/2014-2015/0117/amend/psc1171411a.pdf>

I am content with the amendments, as they seek to strengthen the arrangements for recovery of exit payments made to highly paid public sector employees or office holders, if those employees or office holders later return to work in the same part of the public sector. I do not intend to lay a revised memorandum, as I consider the

wording of the existing memorandum (which refers to the relevant regulation making power) is broad enough to cover these amendments too.

Berthwickes
Jane

Jane Hutt AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Busnes y Llywodraeth
Minister for Finance and Government Business