

Sophie Howe
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

23 April 2019

Dear Sophie,

Thank you for attending the Committee's meeting on 27 March for our annual scrutiny of your work. Following the meeting, Members agreed that I should write to you to seek further information in relation to aspects of your role.

National Indicators and Milestones

In relation to the national milestones to assist in measuring progress towards achieving the well-being goals set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act:

- We would be grateful for your view as to whether the Welsh Government's approach to developing milestones by selecting a small number of indicators to apply them to, as opposed to all 46, is in keeping with its duties under the Act;
- Please could you outline whether you believe any revisions need to be made to the existing set of 46 national indicators. If so, what should the revisions be?

Future Generations Report

In relation to the first Future Generations report, which you are due to publish by May 2020, please could you outline:

- Whether you have commenced work on the development of your report, and if so, how it this work progressing?
- How will you be involving stakeholders in the development of your report?

Budget and Prevention

We are aware that you published advice to the Welsh Government, including ten recommendations where you believe its budget needs to take more ambitious and transformational steps from this year onwards.



- Has the Welsh Government formally responded to your advice on taking account of the Well-being of Future Generations Act in the budget process?

Decarbonisation

The first of the Welsh Government's decarbonisation plans was published on 21 March, please could you outline:

- Whether, in your opinion, the Low Carbon Delivery Plan gives sufficient consideration to and adequately reflects the well-being goals, five ways of working, and the Welsh Government's well-being objectives?
- What changes would you expect to see in how the next plan is prepared, and in the policies and proposals contained within it?

Anomalies in the Well-being of Future Generations Act

During the meeting you referred to anomalies in the Act in relation to your duties in monitoring and assessing public bodies' progress in meeting their well-being objectives whilst having no advisory role in setting those objectives. You also referred to your duties in advising Public Services Boards on setting and monitoring their well-being plans but that you have no duties on monitoring and assessing progress. It would be very helpful if you could provide further details on where you believe there to be anomalies in the legislation.

In terms of organisations covered by the Act, what is your view on Transport for Wales being added to the list of public bodies in the Act, given its role in delivering Welsh Government policy?

Climate change

We also discussed with you the opportunities available to NGOs to engage with your work since the Climate Change Commission for Wales was disbanded. We would be grateful if you could provide details of how you take account of the views of those NGOs with an interest in climate change in your decision making, and clarity as to which of the functions previously undertaken by the Climate Change Commission in advising the Welsh Government have been absorbed into your office and which have fallen away.

Future scrutiny sessions

Finally, I understand that you have suggested amending the timing of our annual scrutiny sessions to the autumn in order to better align with your reporting cycle. Members agreed that this is a sensible approach, and that we will be inviting you to attend a committee meeting in autumn 2019 to discuss your annual report for 2018-19.



I am copying this letter to the Chair of the of the Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

John Griffiths AM

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

