

Members of Parliament in Wales

24 October 2017

Dear Members

Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill – Stage 1 scrutiny

The National Assembly for Wales' Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee holds the Welsh Government to account by scrutinising expenditure, administration and policy matters encompassing (but not restricted to): local government; housing, community regeneration, cohesion and safety; tackling poverty; equality of opportunity and human rights.

The National Assembly for Wales' Finance Committee recently introduced the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill, and it has been referred to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee for Stage 1 scrutiny.

As part of its scrutiny, the Committee would like to provide the opportunity for members of the public who have engaged, or have wished to engage, with the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales, to give their views on the provisions in the Bill.

The terms of reference for the Bill are to consider:

- the general principles of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill and the need for legislation to deliver the stated policy intention,



- the provisions of the Bill which set out the new powers for the Ombudsman to:
 - accept oral complaints;
 - undertake own initiative investigations;
 - investigate private medical treatment including nursing care in a public/private health pathway;
 - undertake a role in relation to complaints handling standards and procedures.
- any potential barriers to the implementation of the Bill’s provisions and whether the Bill takes account of them,
- the appropriateness of the powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (as set out in Chapter 6 of Part 1 of the Explanatory Memorandum).
- whether there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill, and
- the financial implications of the Bill (as set out in Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum).

The Committee’s scrutiny of the Bill will focus only on these terms of reference, and will not look at any broader issues about the Ombudsman’s role.

I would be grateful if you could pass this on to any constituents or groups who you believe may be interested in the consultation. Further details about the Bill can be found on the [Bill’s homepage](#). A public call for evidence was issued on 11 October, and the consultation letter can be viewed [here](#).

If you want any further information about this work, please contact the Clerking team on 0300 200 6222 or SeneddCommunities@assembly.wales

Yours sincerely



John Griffiths AM

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

