

Rocio Cifuentes  
Children's Commissioner for Wales

14 December 2022

## **Annual scrutiny follow-up**

Dear Rocio,

Thank you for your time on 17 November 2022 to discuss the 2021-22 annual report and accounts.

During that meeting you kindly agreed to:

- Provide more information about whether, and to what extent, young people were involved in and consulted about the move of the Children's Commissioner's office from Swansea to Port Talbot.
- Share with us the child rights impact assessment template you have recently shared with the Welsh Government for their work on eliminating profit from the care of children looked after, and your detailed response to the Government's consultation on that issue.

You also agreed to respond in writing to any questions that we were unable to ask you during the session itself. These are as follows:

### Financial management

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- In the Annual Report, your Audit and Risk Assurance Committee noted a risk relating to your office being included in the Government of Wales Act (Budget Motions and Designated Bodies) Order 2018. Can you explain this risk, the measures you had to put in place because of the designation and how it impacts the organisation's budgetary and financial management arrangements?

### Child poverty

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- Given that some of the financial levers to tackle child poverty are not devolved, which policy areas would you want to see Welsh Government focus its resources in order to deliver change for children living in low income households?
- What is your view on the likely impact of the rise in energy prices and costs of living on the delivery of core public services for children such as education and social care? Have you had any discussions to date with Welsh Ministers or Local Authorities about the impact of this on children?

I would be very grateful for this information no later than Thursday 12 January so it can feed into our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's 2023-24 Draft Budget.

After your appearance at Committee we discussed the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy and its associated income maximisation action plan 2020 to 2021. We noted your calls for the Welsh Government to set ambitious child poverty reduction targets, emergency measures to address child hunger, and a free public transport pilot for children.

I would also be grateful if you could keep us updated on your discussions with the Welsh Government about these proposals.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.