

7 December 2022

Dear Chair

Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee Inquiry into Public Appointments

The Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee is undertaking an Inquiry into Public Appointments. Evidence received from the Committee's consultation on the scrutiny of public administration in autumn 2021 recommended that an inquiry be conducted in this area. It was considered to be an issue that had been 'under-examined' since the establishment of the Senedd.

Our agreed Terms of the Reference for the inquiry are detailed in Annex A. However, we are aware that concerns regarding the public appointments process may extend beyond those terms of reference. We therefore welcome the views and experiences of your committees on the matters listed and any other issues that you feel are relevant to our work.

I look forward to hearing from you and kindly ask for responses by Friday 27 January 2023.

Thank You.

Kind Regards,



Mark Isherwood MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Annex A

The Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the Welsh Government's approach to the public appointments process, including where this could be improved to increase the diversity of candidates for public appointments made by Welsh Ministers. Issues to be considered include the following:

- The role of the Public Bodies Unit and the effectiveness of its relationship with Public Bodies' Boards in terms of ensuring good governance and effective public appointment arrangements. This includes any ongoing support for board members.
- The views of those corporate bodies that receive public appointments on the public appointments process;
- The role the Commissioner for Public Appointments.
- What are the main barriers to increasing the diversity of candidates for public appointments in Wales? How do these vary by factors including:
 - Age
 - Sex
 - Ethnicity
 - Disability
- How effective are current approaches being taken by the Welsh Government to encourage and increase the diversity of candidates?
- How can the public appointments process be improved to achieve this?
- How can the Welsh Government create a more transparent and open public appointments process?
- Are there examples of best practice elsewhere in the UK and internationally that Wales should learn from?