

Mark Isherwood MS  
Chair, Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

17 January 2023

Dear Mark

## Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee Inquiry into Public Appointments

Thank you for your letter of 7 December on your committee's inquiry into public appointments.

As part of our remit, the Finance Committee is responsible for the oversight of the Wales Audit Office and the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales. This includes nominating preferred candidates for the roles of Ombudsman and Auditor General for Wales for appointment by the Crown as well as appointing Non-Executive Members of the Wales Audit Office Board and recommending the appointment of its Chair.

During this Senedd, the Committee has been responsible for nominating the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and for appointing the Chair and Non-Executive Members of the Wales Audit Office Board.

I would like to draw your attention to our reports which summarise the process and preferred candidates in each case. I am glad to say that these appointments were robust, attracted a broad range of high quality candidates, and produced outcomes that gained cross-party support in the Senedd.

In addition, we have also conducted a pre-appointment hearing and published a report on the Welsh Government's preferred candidate for appointment as the Chair of the Welsh Revenue Authority. The Committee found this to be a crucial exercise. It gave the preferred candidate exposure to parliamentary scrutiny in a public setting and strengthened the transparency and accountability of the process.



**Senedd Cymru**  
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

✉ SeneddCyllid@senedd.cymru

☎ 0300 200 6565

**Welsh Parliament**  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

✉ SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

☎ 0300 200 6565

Given the Committee's responsibilities and experience in relation to public appointments we have a natural interest in your inquiry and would appreciate continued collaboration in this area so that lessons can be learnt.

In particular, we believe that Welsh public appointments, whether made by the Welsh Government or the Senedd, should be governed by a consistent set of principles. A healthy democracy requires an open, transparent and fair process for appointment to senior public roles and we believe that these values should be at the heart of how such appointments are made in Wales.

It is also essential that these posts continue to attract high calibre candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds so that those appointed reflect the communities they serve. This is crucial to ensure that the best candidates are appointed and that trust and integrity in the Welsh public appointments system is maintained.

I look forward to the outcome of your inquiry and to continue working with you on these issues.

Yours sincerely



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

