



William Shawcross CVO
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Mark Isherwood MS
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Chair, Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

24 February 2023

By email: SeneddPAPA@senedd.wales

Dear Chair,

Thank you for your invitation to speak to your Committee in December, as you begin your inquiry into public appointments in Wales. I was only sorry that I was not able to attend in person. I hope my evidence will be useful for your Committee as it embarks on scrutiny of this important area of public governance.

You asked me for details on the data OCPA publishes on the previous employment of appointees and reappointees over time. I have reproduced the data on this below from OCPA's Annual Reports:

Appointments and reappointments to those declaring a 'mostly private sector' employment background, Welsh Government appointments only, not including 'prefer not to say'¹

Year	Appointees	Appointees %	Reappointees	Reappointees %	combined
2021-22	6	11.8%	1	10.0%	11.5%
2020-21	6	23.1%	3	9.4%	15.5%
2019-20	10	18.9%	3	33.3%	21%

The data above does show a decline in the proportion of appointees and reappointees declaring their previous employment background as mostly in the private sector over the last three years. However, the data also is based on a very small number of declarations, and so the proportions fluctuate significantly, as seen in the table above, even when the raw number of individuals is the

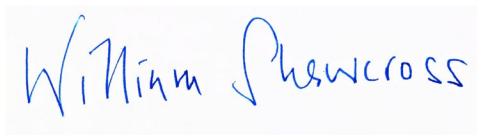
¹ Compiled from OCPA Annual reports 2021-22 (Table 74), 2020-21 (Table 74), 2019-20 (Table 71). Data is not held for earlier years.

same. OCPA will continue to report on this metric, and encourage the Welsh Government to support more appointees and reappointees to declare their previous employment status.

I have also now completed my investigation into a complaint made to the Welsh Government about two reappointments made in early 2021. I have also enclosed that decision notice, which is published on my website, to this letter.

I would be happy to share any further information with you if your Committee has further questions as you continue your Inquiry.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William Shawcross". The signature is written in a cursive style and is contained within a light blue rectangular box.

William Shawcross
Commissioner for Public Appointments