



By email

24/04/23

Dear Jenny,

Thank you very much for your letter dated 23rd March 2023. I appreciate you writing to provide me with further detail on the points you raised as part of the scrutiny process.

Transparency

The point you make about transparency and scrutiny is an important one. I want to be transparent about the meetings I have with Welsh Ministers and Welsh Government officials. Like you, I am eager to prevent this process becoming overly bureaucratic. My colleagues have already been speaking to officials at Welsh Government about how we do that. This matter is still under discussion. However, I want to assure you that I do plan to record my meetings and communications with Welsh Government Ministers, and I will publish this record on my website. I have included a table in Annexe A which provides you with information about the Ministerial meetings I have held since starting in post on 1st March.

In your letter you refer to a perception that too much of the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner's time is dedicated to supporting the Welsh Government to the detriment of other public bodies. This is something I will pay close attention to. However, I must say, on the evidence of the last few weeks this has not been my impression. I have witnessed a great deal of work being done to support the whole range of public bodies. For example, my team are currently providing a significant amount of advice and assistance to PSBs to support them through the second cycle of well-being planning, culminating in them publishing their new well-being plans in May 2023. (More detailed information about the process and our role in it, is set out in Annexe B below).

In prioritising my own time, I have ensured that I meet with a wide range of public bodies. On my first day as Commissioner, I wrote to all public bodies and Public Services Boards to invite them to meet with me, to discuss our joint needs and work programmes. My first meetings were with the National Museum Wales and Natural Resources Wales. Since

starting my role, I have met with 26 public bodies, 2 Public Services Boards and senior representatives of Corporate Joint Committees. Further meetings have been scheduled. In annexe C I have provided a list of the public bodies that I have met with in the last few weeks.

Vision and approach

These meetings and engagements are an important part of the [‘Our Future Focus’](#) process that I have launched. I am taking the opportunity to refresh our approach to what we do and to set out new areas of focus. I want to build on the success of the last seven years and put an even greater focus on implementation. The Future Focus exercise will help us take decisions about how we can most effectively allocate our time and resources to have the biggest impact for the well-being of current and future generations. This will be the beginning of an ongoing process of involvement leading up to the next Future Generations Report (2025) and beyond. I am planning to launch my new priorities in the Autumn. I look forward to discussing these priorities and performance indicators with the Committee in due course.

The conversations so far with CEOs and leaders across Wales have centred on the importance of continued support of my dedicated public bodies team and to accelerate the assistance to public bodies with the practical resources to deepen implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. I look forward to continuing my conversations with public bodies over the coming months as I develop my work programme. I will also continue the valuable conversations I am having with those outside the public sector, including young people, voluntary organisations, academia and the private sector.

My team are also working closely with Welsh Government to prepare the new public bodies who will join the Well-being of Future Generations Act from April 2024. As well as meeting with the CEOs and Chairs of these bodies myself, this work includes assigning a public body lead contact to the additional bodies to establish relationships, providing initial support through sharing our resources and providing advice and guidance on their work to implement the Act thus far. We are also developing a training programme to further support them and other public bodies and stakeholder to implement and embed the Act.

Future engagement

I would like to continue the constructive engagement that took place between my predecessor and the Committee. I look forward to strengthening that engagement in the years ahead. I am currently in the process of reaching out to all Committee Chairs to request a meeting, as part of a series of introductory meetings within my first 6 months.

Finally, I would like to take up your offer to meet informally with Members of the Committee, which would be a good opportunity to discuss my emerging work programme with you.

Yours sincerely,



Derek Walker
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

ANNEXE A: Welsh Government

Ministerial meetings since 1st March 2023 include:

Minister	Date	Topics of discussion
Rebecca Evans MS	20/03/2023	Introductory, Welsh Government Budget, Academi Wales
Mark Drakeford MS	22/03/2023	Introductory, Section 20 Review,
Lesley Griffiths MS	29/03/2023	Introductory, Rivers, Agriculture Bill
Hannah Blythyn MS	30/03/2023	Introductory, Social Partnership and Procurement Bill

ANNEXE B: Public Services Boards

Well-being assessments

- PSBs published their second well-being assessments in May 2022.
- In March 2021, we sent a joint letter to all PSBs signed by the Commissioner and Welsh Minister, setting out what we expected to see in the assessments.
- We focused on developing a 'constructive and consistent' relationship with PSBs, as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee.
- We provided detailed advice to PSBs on these between December 2021 and April 2022. This included individual letters sent to each PSB focussing on what was good and areas that could be further developed.
- We worked closely with key partners including Welsh Government, NRW, Public Health Wales, WCPP, Welsh Language Commissioner and others.
- In June 2022, we published an [overarching report](#) assessing policy, process, good practice, current challenges and a comparison between 2017 and 2022 assessments.
- Approach well received by PSBs.

Well-being plans: statutory advice period with OFGC

- In 2022, each PSB triggered the statutory 14-week advice period with our office (between June and December 2022).
- We took an iterative approach, working with and meeting the PSBs throughout the advice period.



- Issued advice at the end of the 14 weeks, summarising the discussions and topics explored. Strong focus on the five ways of working, but also on topics and themes.
- Approach well received by PSBs, e.g. *“We have found it a more constructive process this time around and feel the approach taken has developed a stronger relationship between ourselves and your team.”* Vale of Glamorgan PSB.
- Continued collaboration with key partners, incorporating key messages into our advice.

Well-being plans: public consultations

- All PSBs publicly consult on their draft well-being plans, for a minimum of 12 weeks.
- Between January and March 2023, we provided our statutory advice to PSBs on their public consultations, building on the work we'd done with them to date.

Final well-being plans will be published in May 2023.

ANNEXE C: Public Sector Meetings (Since 1st March 2023)

Public Bodies

- Amgueddfa Cymru
- Arts Council for Wales
- Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board
- Bridgend County Borough Council
- Caerphilly County Borough Council
- Cardiff County Borough Council
- Cardiff and Vale University Health Board
- Centre for Digital Public Services
- Conwy County Borough Council
- Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board
- Digital Health and Care Wales
- Health Education and Improvement Wales
- Hywel Dda University Health Board
- Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council
- Monmouth County Borough Council
- National Resources Wales
- Newport City Council



Comisiynydd
**Cenedlaethau'r
Dyfodol**
Cymru

**Future
Generations**
Commissioner
for Wales

- Pembrokeshire National Park Authority
- Public Health Wales
- Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
- Social Care Wales
- South Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Swansea Council
- Torfaen County Borough Council
- Velindre University NHS Trust
- Welsh Government
- Welsh Revenue Authority

Public Services Boards

- Flintshire and Wrexham Public Service Board
- Gwynedd and Anglesey Public Service Board

Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru

Tramshed Tech, Heol Pendyris
Caerdydd, CF11 6BH

cystylltwchani@cenedlaethaurdyfodol.cymru
cenedlaethaurdyfodol.cymru

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Tramshed Tech, Pendyris Street
Cardiff, CF11 6BH

contactus@futuregenerations.wales
futuregenerations.wales