

Mark Drakeford MS

First Minister

6 July 2023

**Ministerial appointments**

Dear First Minister,

We recently held a pre-appointment hearing for preferred candidate for the Chief Executive of the new Commission for Tertiary Education and Research. This was not a public appointment as listed in the agreement between the Senedd and the Welsh Government. However, we held a pre-appointment hearing following a commitment given by the Minister for Education and Welsh Language during Stage 2 and 3 scrutiny of the then Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill. We appreciated the Minister's commitments and the opportunity for our involvement in this appointment.

More generally, we have consistently highlighted our concerns about the limited role of Senedd committees in the public appointment process, and in particular the limitations of the pre-appointment hearings since the start of this Senedd. These are outlined in our [recent correspondence to the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee](#).

We are writing to seek more information on ministerial appointments. This was a ministerial appointment in which Senedd committees do not usually play a role. We believe that our involvement in this appointment has helped put more information in the public domain about the recruitment process. This was particularly important for this role because of the decision to move to a direct appointment after the public recruitment process was not successful.

As a result, the Committee would like more information about the approaches taken in relation to ministerial appointments. We would therefore appreciate information about the different approaches that have been taken for such appointments. Please could you provide us with the total number of ministerial appointments broken down by:

- ministerial portfolio;



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- whether an open recruitment process was carried out in relation to the appointment;
- whether the open recruitment process was successful (if applicable);
- whether the appointment was a direct appointment; and
- the reason why the appointment was a direct appointment (if applicable).

Please can you also provide details of all posts to which a direct appointment was made, irrespective of the reason for which the direct appointment was made. We would like this data to cover the period of the last five years.

I am copying this letter to Mark Isherwood, Chair, Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee in light of the Committee's ongoing inquiry into public appointments.

We would appreciate a response by 14 September 2023.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair

Cc: Mark Isherwood, Chair, Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.