



By email

24 August 2023

Dear Chair,

I am writing to express my thanks to you and the Committee for your recent report on the 'Review of the Welsh Commissioners'. I appreciate the comprehensive work put in by the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee, following the Senedd Equality and Social Justice Committee's recommendation. Your examination of the resourcing arrangements of Commissioners is helpful and timely.

In particular, I welcome the report's findings and recommendations that are especially pertinent to my role and designed to help improving the setting and evolution of our annual budgets:

- Recommendation 4 – Your call for Welsh Ministers to confirm the funding allocations for Commissioners in a well-defined and consistent manner is welcome to give us sufficient time to plan our budgets for the following years.
- Recommendation 14 – I look forward to an update from the Minister for Social Justice about the review by officials into the scope of the Future Generations Commissioner's work.
- Recommendation 16 - It is essential that the Welsh Government reviews the potential impact of new legislation on the remit of Welsh Commissioners. There is a need to ensure we have adequate resources to deliver extensions to our roles and responsibilities.

As I am preparing to set the priorities for my term, this year only, I have sent an indication of my budget needs to Welsh Government prior to the summer recess and will send my full estimate by the statutory deadline of the 31st of October. I anticipate that the findings from the Committee's report will be considered during budgetary deliberations and the setting of my budget for 2024-25. From my recent engagement with leaders of Welsh public bodies over the last few months, it is clear they welcome the expert support and advice provided by my team. Whilst I acknowledge the extremely tough budgetary circumstances facing the Welsh Government in the upcoming budget, I hope that I can retain my current team and that the value provided by my office will be recognised during the budget discussions.



I wish to reassert my commitment to working collaboratively with other Commissioners. We already work closely together, and I anticipate being able to build on this further in the years to come.

I note and welcome the Committee's intention to return to further scrutiny of the Commissioners' work as part of its annual accounts scrutiny. I look forward to working with officials on this in due course.

Once again, thank you for sending me a copy of your report and for the supportive recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Derek Walker
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

