

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

28 May 2025

Dear Jenny,

Implementation of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act

During our meeting on Wednesday 14 May, the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee considered the [Future Generations Commissioner's Report 2025](#) and the Auditor General for Wales' report, [No time to lose: Lessons from our work under the Well-being of Future Generations Act](#), and agreed that the contents falls within your Committee's remit.

We welcome the intention of the Equality and Social Justice Committee to undertake post-legislative scrutiny of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act and wish to pass on our reflections from these reports, which may be relevant to you inquiry.

We are pleased to note the Auditor General for Wales' conclusion that the Act, over time, has increased in prominence and that there is demonstrable evidence of it influencing longer-term planning, decision-making and working practices. However, there are significant concerns about how the Act has been implemented on a practical level and is not delivering the intended "system-wide change that was intended".

During our discussions, we identified the following points as areas of specific concern:

- Are the deficiencies outlined in the Auditor General for Wales' report inherent in the legislation itself, whether there's an issue of implementation not caused by the legislation or a combination of the two?

- We note that issues can also be caused by the clarity and certainty of funding available for public bodies and the accountability frameworks that are in place.
- This uncertainty is compounded by a failure to gather better data on the impact of decisions, as well as on the impact of them.
- We are concerned about the lack of legal consequences arising from failures to implement the legislation, with questions about what the practical consequences really are of decisions not being made in line with the Act.
- We also note that subsequent legislation has sought to embed the principles of the Act, but has this led to some duplication and additional complication for public bodies when it comes to implementation?
- Finally, the Committee concurred with the Auditor General for Wales that there had been an insufficient focus by the Welsh Government on prevention measures. We endorse Recommendation 3 of the report and would be interested to hear more about the Committee's findings in this area.

We look forward to hearing the conclusions from your work in this area. The Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee is open to future joint work in this area should you consider it to be beneficial.

Regards,



Mark Isherwood MS

Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.