

Dr Andrew Goodall
Permanent Secretary – Welsh Government

21 March 2023

**Evidence session on 2 March 2023 - Scrutiny of Welsh Government Consolidated Accounts
2021-22**

Dear Dr Goodall,

Thanks to you and your colleagues for your attendance at the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee meeting on 2 March 2023. Due to time constraints during the meeting, there were a number of questions not reached and the Committee would welcome a written response to the following:

Welsh Government Performance Framework

- In the 2021-22 Accounts, it is suggested that the Welsh Government Performance Framework and some related measures are still in development. What are the main aspects the Welsh Government has left to complete and what is it likely to gain from doing this further work?
- What is the current internal reporting process for the Performance Framework and how might this change if, as recommended by the Board, reporting is to be reviewed on an ongoing basis to ensure continuing alignment with Welsh Government strategy?

Losses, Write-Offs and Special Payments

- How much has the Welsh Government written-off and reported in its 2021-22 Accounts, by scheme, following the Roads Review and how much will it write-off in 2022-23. How

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

does the Welsh Government assess the retained value of data and other preparatory work for these schemes?

- In its 2021-22 Accounts, the Welsh Government identifies two ex-gratia payments to companies, each with a value over £300,000, which it says are financial support to mitigate hardship when demand for Personal Protective Equipment for the public sector related to COVID-19 did not materialise. How did the Welsh Government create an expectation, how did it deem it was liable to make such payments and how did it determine the amounts to be paid?
- How many other companies received ex-gratia payments from the Welsh Government for this reason and what is the aggregate value of them by financial year?
- Have the Welsh Government/Welsh Ministers informed the Senedd about the decision to write off £9m of expenditure relating to the A55 Junctions 14 to 16A and, if so, when. Could you provide the Committee with an explanation about how the Welsh Government defines “serious losses”, as per paragraph A4.9.6 of Managing Welsh Public Money?

During evidence:

- You agreed to outline how the Welsh Government balances clawing back monies from companies, with the related impact on the companies themselves and sub-contractors. The response should explain where the treatment or approach differs between Welsh Government grants and loans for business finance?
- Regarding claims for clinical negligence and personal injury, Welsh Government officials told the Committee the increases or decreases in the related provisions score against the budget for Annually Managed Expenditure. The Committee would welcome further information about how the budget for these provisions operates in practice, including in-year changes, what information the Welsh Government shares with HM Treasury and the HM Treasury approval process. The Committee would also welcome information about the budget and cost implications when sums are paid out against the provisions?

Related Issue

- I noted the [Welsh Government's announcement](#) on 13 March 2023 about the Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, which mentions the tailored review. The Committee has sought updates about this process and the timing of the report. In October 2022, you provided an update, [stating](#) an interim report would be available by Christmas and the review would conclude no later than 1 March 2023.
- In December, and in response to the Committee's request, you [said](#) the Welsh Government would not share the interim report with the Committee, saying “it was never

the intention to share the report wider than the partnership team within the Welsh Government and the Museum itself". This was despite the Committee and the Auditor General for Wales concerns about the governance arrangements at the Museum.

- We note, in the announcement, the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Chief Whip says the "final report will be available later this year". The Committee would welcome an update given the apparent delay in the timetable for the outcome of the tailored review.

I would welcome a response by Friday 7 April 2023.

Regards



Mark Isherwood MS

Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

