

**Y Pwyllgor Amgylchedd a Chynaliadwyedd**  
**Environment and Sustainability Committee**

Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Huw Vaughan Thomas  
The Auditor General for Wales  
Wales Audit Office  
24 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ

3 October 2014

Dear Auditor General

**Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill – Further information**

Thank you for attending the Committee meeting on 1 October for the evidence session on the general principles of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Bill.

At the meeting, and in your written evidence, you have expressed the view that the assessment of your role contained in the Explanatory Memorandum of the Bill is inaccurate. You have suggested that the potential benefits of amending the Bill to ‘place a duty on the Auditor General for Wales, to include an examination of how organisations have embedded sustainable development as their central organising principle in relation to their duty’ could be considered. The Committee would like you to provide further details on how you feel this could be achieved, including any specific amendments which would need to be made and the potential impact of such amendments.

Additionally, at the meeting you agreed to provide further information on:

1. The views of your leading counsel with regards to your current statutory obligation in relation to the Bill in its current form; and
2. An example of a similar duty as referred to above in existing legislation.

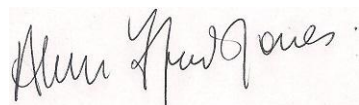
We would be grateful if you could provide a response on the above issues by Friday 10 October. I appreciate that this timescale is tight, however this reflects the wider timetable for stage 1 and the need for us to receive your response in sufficient time to be able to fully consider the information.

Also within your written evidence you have stated that your “observations are based only on a reading of the Explanatory Memorandum, rather than an audit of the underlying working papers.” During the meeting you explained that, subject to the approval of the Public Accounts Committee and the availability of the necessary documentation, you would be able to carry out such an audit. The Committee would like to formally request that you undertake this audit and provide details of the conclusions reached. I’d be grateful if you could let me know when you believe this work could be conducted by.

If you are able to look favourably on this request, then I will ask the Clerk to the Committee to liaise with appropriate officers in your office to discuss the details of this engagement.

I have copied this letter to both the Chairs and Clerks to the Public Accounts and Finance Committees so that they are aware of my request. It is my understanding that this request does not cut across any work that the Public Accounts Committee has planned and that there is no procedural barrier to Assembly committees seeking your support with their work.

Yours sincerely



**Alun Ffred Jones AM**  
**Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee**