



Pwyllgor Cyllid
Finance Committee
Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Leighton Andrews AM
Minister for Public Services

27 January 2015

Dear Minister

Inquiry into the Consideration of Powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

The Finance Committee has agreed to undertake an [inquiry into the consideration of powers of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales](#). Nick Bennett, the Ombudsman has highlighted five main areas for changes to the [Public Services Ombudsman \(Wales\) Act 2005](#) which he believes will strengthen the role. These include own-initiative powers, accepting oral complaints, complaints handling across public services, jurisdiction and links with the courts and he has provided a [background paper](#) outlining each of these proposals.

As the role of the Ombudsman cuts across ministerial portfolios, I am writing to Ministers asking for their views on the following:

- How would the Ombudsman's proposals impact on specific sectors within the Welsh Government's remit?
- Would the proposed reforms of the Ombudsman's role be better carried out in advance of wider public sector reforms, or after?
- Is there a need for a co-ordination role between the Auditor General for Wales, the Ombudsman and independent commissioners to help their investigations and recommendations to improve public services?
- Are there any examples of public service providers which are not currently within the Ombudsman's remit, which you believe should be?

It would be helpful to receive your response by 20 February to allow us to consider your response as part of our inquiry.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jocelyn Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Jocelyn Davies AM
Committee Chair