



Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru
The National Library of Wales

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The National Library of Wales
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un o lyfrgelloedd mawr y byd
one of the great libraries of the world

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5th. February 2016

Dear Chair

National Assembly for Wales Public Accounts Committee Scrutiny of Accounts 2014-2015 Report

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Public Accounts Committee Scrutiny of Accounts 2014-2015 Report. The National Library always welcomes opportunities to review and discuss its important work for the people of Wales. In response to your acknowledgement of the good work being taken forward to implement the recommendations of the PwC Report (2015) in Recommendation 1, I am pleased to confirm that rapid progress has continued to be made. As the Committee is aware, a Task Force of Board members and senior staff reviewed all relevant policies and practices during 2015. Trades Union representatives were invited to comment on the revised policies. The Board of Trustees agreed the implementation of the strengthened policies at a Board meeting held on 6 November 2015. The Board will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the Library's work and has recently established a Governance and Performance Committee to support this aspect of its responsibilities.

In relation to Recommendations 2-4, the Board of Trustees identified at an early stage following the fire in April 2013 that any expenditure in pursuit of legal address needed to have a chance of success and financial return. As the Welsh Government requested that the Library investigate the options for legal action, guidance has been requested from Ministers regarding the pursuit of any further litigation to recover the costs of the fire. The arrangements regarding the Government Indemnity scheme are longstanding and we acknowledge that the Library is dependent on these arrangements for insurance purposes. The Board of Trustees has repeatedly sought further clarification from the Welsh Government regarding the scheme, however, ultimately this is an issue for the Welsh Government to consider in the broader context of its relationship with its sponsored bodies.

Finally, in response to Recommendation 5, the Library currently is operating a fully funded pension scheme, in sharp contrast to other similar organisations. The Board of Trustees regularly reviews the pension scheme and a separate Board of Pension Trustees provides oversight. The Library acknowledges the importance of the effective management of its resources in the current financial climate. The arrangements for severance are being actively reviewed by management and a commitment for management and Trades Union representatives to discuss existing arrangements formed part of the pay offer for 2015-2017 which was agreed in December 2015.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Committee's Report. Both the Board of Trustees and the Library's executive are fully committed to the task of ensuring that the National Library

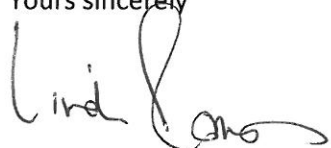


Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig 525775
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of Wales has the wherewithal to continue to provide relevant, sustainable and exciting services for the people of Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Linda Tomos'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Linda Tomos
National Librarian