

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref DC/MD/05251/16

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Dear Simon

I appreciate that other commitments, understandably, prevented you from joining me at my recent breakfast event. I thought it might be helpful if I sent you an overview of what was discussed and also to invite you to offer any views.

I held the event to elicit views from a broad group of stakeholders on our next steps in tax devolution; in particular progress on establishing the Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA) and the early priority of appointing a chair and subsequent board. As you know, my intention is to advertise for a chair later this autumn and to announce a successful candidate early in 2017 and the meeting was helpful in view of that timetable.

During the breakfast event we talked about the skills and attributes required of the first chair (and the wider Board) and a number of interesting points were raised during the discussion; not least the importance of attracting credible candidates suitable to the context of a new organisation in Wales. We also discussed the various options available to ensure a wide and diverse field of candidates.

I would be interested to hear any views you have on the attributes and skills you think most important for the WRA Board and also on how to ensure we get the most suitable and diverse group of candidates possible.

As to future progress being made towards establishing the WRA and reporting progress on this, I wanted to draw your attention to a piece of work being taken forward by the Auditor General for Wales. In September 2015, the Auditor General for Wales wrote to your predecessor setting out his intention to carry out a review into the progress with preparing for devolving taxes to Wales by April 2018. The WAO have indicated that they will publish their first report by the end of November.

Yours sincerely

Mark Drakeford AM/AC
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Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.