

Shan Morgan
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay AM
Public Accounts Committee Chair
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

8 November 2017

Dear Mr Ramsay,

Thank you for your letter of 11 October in which you raise concerns about the Welsh Government's partial acceptance/acceptance in principle of some Public Accounts Committee recommendations.

I am grateful for the feedback from the Committee. I certainly do not want the Welsh Government to appear to be paying 'lip service' to accepting recommendations if our heart is not really in it. Like the Committee, I would much prefer us to say up front that we do not accept a particular recommendation where that is the case, and for us to set out clearly the rationale for that decision. While I hope that this will be a rare occurrence, I welcome the Committee's view that this is an essential part of scrutiny. We will therefore discontinue the practice of partial acceptance/ acceptance in principle.

I hope that the Committee will recognise that there may be occasions when we would agree with the Committee about the intention of a recommendation, but believe that there may be a more effective way of achieving its intention. Again, I would expect colleagues to set out the reason for preferring a different approach. I hope that the Committee would agree this still constitutes an acceptance of the recommendation overall.



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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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

We would be very happy to have informal conversations with the Committee, perhaps through the Clerk's Office, about the phrasing of recommendations while they are still in draft if that would be helpful. The intention would be, of course, not to seek to dissuade the Committee from a particular recommendation but to provide an opportunity for a dialogue about the best way to implement what the Committee has in mind. This would mirror the practice of the Wales Audit Office who consult us on their proposed recommendations as part of their report process.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister and the Clerk to the Assembly Commission.

Yn gywir,

Shan Morgan

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Llywodraeth Cymru/ Welsh Government

