

Andrew Slade
Director General – Economy, Skills and Natural
Resources Group
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NO

8 March 2018

Dear Mr Slade,

Public Accounts Committee meeting 15 January 2018: UK Government Digital Service

Thank you for your letter of 31 January which was considered in the Public Accounts Committee meeting on 26 February.

During the consideration of the section regarding the UK Government Digital Service, Members felt that there was a different philosophy with approach to procurement between the UK and Welsh Governments. The Committee have a number of questions on the relationship between the Welsh and UK Governments and it was agreed I would write to you again on this issue.

Can you please advise as to:

- How much the Welsh Government is actually using the Government Digital Service (GDS) Digital, Data and Technology (DDat) procurement frameworks;
- Provide reasons as to why the Welsh Government would not be directly using these procurement frameworks and instead creating separate versions; and
- In England they are using the new mechanisms, as stated in your letter, which provide for quick procurement and an iterative, experimental approach. The Welsh Government is appearing to prefer the old-style large IT contracts which last for many years and take considerable time to procure. In this instance, can you clarify what the lead-in times for the Welsh Government procurement frameworks are in comparison to the



English ones and why they are not apparently being used together with how much has been spent on the English procurement frameworks.

I look forward to receiving this further information and am copying both this and your letter to Russell George AM, Chair of the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee due to that Committee's interest in this areas.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair

