

Lynne Neagle AM – Chair of Children, Young People  
and Education Committee

Russell George AM – Chair of the Economy,  
Infrastructure and Skills Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

8 March 2018

Dear Lynne and Russell,

### **Welsh Government Hwb Programme**

The Public Accounts Committee held an Introductory Session with Tracey Burke on 15 January, the Director General with responsibility for Education and Public Services in the Welsh Government.

During that evidence session, we discussed coding elements of the Welsh Government Hwb Programme – (a website and collection of online tools provided to all schools in Wales). Following that meeting, Tracey Burke has provided additional information about this Programme and specifically Cracking the Code and the Minecraft for Education Pilot, (Part D of the attached letter).

The Public Accounts Committee considered the response on 26 February and expressed concern that the scale of the Welsh Government's activity in this area appears insufficient considering what needs to be done to ensure the digital challenge is met. There appears to be a lack of ambition within the Welsh Government to deliver in this area. For example, the Minecraft for Education initiative pilot scheme currently only involves 10 schools, and the Cracking the Code project has only received £1.3M for this Assembly Term together with a further £930K for Technocamps. These numbers are too small in comparison to the number of schools in Wales.

Public Accounts Committee Members believe there is a profound disconnect in the scale of what is being done to what should be happening and consider that this is might be an area of interest for your Committees. I would be grateful if you can



consider scheduling this area into your work programmes/regular scrutiny of Cabinet Secretaries and advise me of the outcome.

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**

