In the Welsh Government’s recently published Draft Taxonomy for Codes of Welsh Law, the legislation that established both the Children’s Commissioner for Wales and Older People’s Commissioner for Wales has been categorised under the Code of ‘Health and Social Care’.

As you will be aware, both younger and older people access a range of other public services beyond health and social care, including education, justice, employment and housing. Likewise, our offices conduct a significant amount of work beyond health and social care.

We believe that it would be more appropriate to reclassify the legislation that established our offices under the Code of “Public Administration” alongside the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

Whilst this codification does not affect our ability to discharge our statutory functions, it is important to show those that are making use of the Taxonomy, including the public, that our work extends beyond health and social care.
We hope that you will take our views into consideration when further developing the Bill and look forward to its progression through the National Assembly for Wales.

As the issue has been raised by Suzy Davies AM at the Assembly’s Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, we will be sending a copy of this letter to the Committee’s Chair to inform their scrutiny of the Bill.

Yours sincerely,

[Signatures]

Prof. Sally Holland  
Children’s Commissioner for Wales

Heléna Herklots CBE  
Older People’s Commissioner for Wales

CC:

Mick Antoniw AM, Chair, Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, National Assembly for Wales

Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Meri Huws, Welsh Language Commissioner