

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Trefnydd
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref

Llyr Gruffydd AM,
Chair Finance Committee,
The National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

30 April 2019

Dear Llyr,

PUBLIC AUDIT (WALES) ACT 2013

Thank you for referring the changes proposed by the Wales Audit Office (WAO) in respect of the proposal for a bill to amend the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013 and a draft Public Audit (Amendment) (Wales) bill.

You asked whether I had any comments on the terms of reference. You also asked if I was minded to address the conflicting statutory duties placed on the AGW - or would be supportive of such as change being included in a future committee Bill.

I can confirm that I am content with the proposal to potentially amend the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013 via a future committee Bill. However, you will appreciate that the Government has its own very full legislative programme and is also dealing with the consequences of Brexit. If the Bill does proceed there will be only very limited technical assistance which the Welsh Government would be able to offer.

As for the terms of reference, I would suggest that the committee may also wish to consider any other proposals the WAO has in respect of charging fees for work undertaken for the Welsh Government, the National Assembly, and Ombudsman. These were outlined in a covering letter on the proposed changes to the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013 forwarded to your predecessor in June 2018 (IG/18/005/HVT/2856/SD 21 June 2018). Although deemed by WAO not to be legislative in nature, these changes would potentially bring an end to the process whereby WAO hard charge the Welsh Government, National Assembly and Ombudsman. I understand that during the consultation period the Welsh Government questioned whether this was appropriate as the setting and payment of fees plays an

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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.

important part in the engagement with clients and in ensuring those clients receive value for money.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

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