

Sophie Howe
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

14 November 2019

Dear Sophie,

Thank you for inviting the Committee to comment on your forthcoming Future Generations Report. You will be aware that we held a session with stakeholders earlier this month to better understand their role in working with you and your office. As part of the session, we also sought their views on the areas which should be included in your report. Based on this, we offer the following comments.

We believe it will be important to learn from the impact of actions already taken and how these can influence future change. The report should therefore demonstrate the impacts and outcomes of your work over the past three years, setting out the clear evidence base to influence future thinking. It should assess the impact your office has had on supporting public bodies to create good policy and good decision making framed by the Act, but should not merely be a report on public sector progress.

There should be a clear focus on the future, spelling out the trajectory of where we need to be going. This is a real opportunity to share strong analysis about future trends; what that tells us, and some scenarios for some positive action. We believe this approach will be useful for the public sector in terms of planning, changing mindsets etc as well as the broader public.

In the report you should place greater emphasis on public bodies achieving the 'A resilient Wales' goal, notably in relation to the climate and nature emergency. The environment is critical to a healthy future, and therefore there should be a specific focus on this. The report should also set out your own priorities for the future, and be clear about whether the priorities you have currently set will stay in place for the remainder of your time in office, or whether they are likely to change.



You may be aware that the Committee has undertaken inquiries into rough sleeping and empty properties recently, both of which overlap with achieving some of the well-being goals. You may wish to take account of these when considering your work on your priority area of housing.

Finally, the public should be able to relate to the report; it needs to be engaging, and something people can “latch onto” and feel part of. This is important as they will play a key role in driving forward the necessary change.

I hope that this information will be useful to you in preparation of your report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and fluid.

John Griffiths AM

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

