

Agenda – Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Hybrid – Committee Room 3 Senedd and video conference via Zoom	Fay Bowen Committee Clerk
Meeting date: 22 January 2025	0300 200 6565
Meeting time: 09.15	SeneddPAPA@senedd.wales

Private pre-meeting (09.00 – 09.15)

Public meeting (09.15 – 11.05)

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest
(09.15)
- 2 Paper(s) to note
(09.15 – 09.30)
 - 2.1 Letter from Chair, Future Senedd Committee to the Chair regarding Standing Order 18.5: Membership of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee
(Pages 1 – 2)
 - 2.2 Response from the First Minister of Wales to the Chair regarding The Ministerial Code
(Page 3)
 - 2.3 Update from the Permanent Secretary to the Chair regarding Welsh Government's Annual Report and Accounts for 2021–22
(Pages 4 – 6)
 - 2.4 Letter from Tim Moss Tim Moss, Director General and Chief Operating Officer to the Chair regarding public appointments
(Page 7)



Break (09.30 – 09.35)

3 Active Travel: evidence session with the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)

(09.35 – 11.05)

(Pages 8 – 44)

Kaarina Ruta

Matt Price

Kyle Phillips

John Forsey

Dylan Llewellyn Jones

Research brief

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting

(11.05)

Private meeting (11.05 – 12.00)

5 Active Travel: consideration of evidence

(11.05 – 11.20)

6 Paper to note

(11.20–11.30)

6.1 Response from Carl James, Executive Director of Strategic Transformation, Planning and Digital/Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Interim) – Velindre University NHS Trust to the Chair following the evidence session on 21 November 2024

(Pages 45 – 165)

7 Public Appointments: consideration of draft report

(11.30 – 12.00)

(Pages 166 – 242)

Draft report

Mark Isherwood MS
Chair of the Public Accounts and Public
Administration Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay

4 December 2024

Dear Mark,

Standing Order 18.5: Membership of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

The Future Senedd Committee (“the Committee”) has been established with a remit to consider, amongst other things, the thresholds currently set in Standing Orders for the number of Members required for various purposes.

As you will be aware, section 30(2) of the Government of Wales Act 2006 (“the Act”) requires that the “Audit Committee is to have the number of Members specified by the Standing Orders”. In accordance with section 30(2) of the Act, Standing Order 18.5 currently stipulates that the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee must consist of “no fewer than 5 Members and no more than 10 Members”.

The Committee would welcome a view from the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee on whether, in preparation for a larger Seventh Senedd, the numeric thresholds set in Standing Order 18.5 should:

- remain as they are currently drafted; or
- be amended to a different value/s.

If possible, it would be helpful to receive a response by Friday, 7 February.

Yours sincerely,

David F. Rees.

David Rees MS

Chair, Future Senedd Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Mark Isherwood MS
Chair
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

17 December 2024

Dear Mark,

I am writing in response to your letter of 26 November setting out the results of the consultation by the Committee on possible changes to the Ministerial Code, with the consequent views of the Committee on what those changes should be.

I had already intended to review and revise the Ministerial Code as an early task for me as First Minister so it is very timely to have the thoughts of the Committee on what should be included. I will certainly consider these suggestions carefully in revising the Code. I will also, of course, have regard to recent development in the UK and Scottish Governments in relation to their own Codes, as outlined in your letter. I cannot guarantee that I will take on board every suggestion by the Committee, but I guarantee that I will consider each one carefully.

Thank you too for the invitation to give evidence to the Committee. I think that it might be difficult for me to find a slot in the immediate future, and I would need to finalise my own thinking on the Code first in any case, but a meeting at some stage in the future might be very helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Eluned Morgan

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Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

Agenda Item 2.3

Dr Andrew Goodall
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

6 December 2024

Dear Mr Isherwood,

Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee – Welsh Government Annual Report and Accounts 2021-22

Further to my letter of 12 February 2024 I am writing to provide an update on Recommendation 8:

Recommendation 8

The Committee reiterates its predecessor Committee's recommendation on FReM requirements. The Welsh Government should notify the Committee of the FReM requirements it aims to comply with when preparing its accounts. It should also notify the Committee of any changes in its decisions, or in light of new FReM requirements, when the accounts are published. This information should be provided at the earliest possible opportunity ahead of the 2023-24 Accounts.

Accept

The Welsh Government has been unable to provide the detail of the FReM requirements it aims to comply with when preparing its accounts previously to the Committee due to the impact of Covid-19 and subsequent impact on the accounting timetables across the Welsh Public Sector. Resource has been prioritised to the accounts production process and the implementation of new accounting standards to the Welsh Public Sector.

The Welsh Government follows the FReM for the preparation of its accounts for most aspects of the FReM other than when requirements are specifically applicable to UK Government Departments only, or where there are exemptions for the Welsh Government from compliance - in recognition that Wales as a Devolved Administration



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has a different policy context and stakeholders. Principally this relates to performance analysis and sustainability reporting requirements.

The Welsh Government will provide this to the Committee in advance of the 2023-24 accounts, now the FReM for 2023-24 has been finalised in December 2023.

The Welsh Government has an Accounts Direction from HM Treasury which requires it to prepare accounts in accordance with the FReM. The Welsh Government Consolidated Account consists of three parts:

- The Performance Report
- The Accountability Report
- The Financial Statements

Other than where transactions are 'immaterial' and therefore not required for disclosures under FReM principles, Welsh Government applies the FReM requirements for:

- the Accountability Report, including the Remuneration and Staff Report, aligned to the governance requirements of Managing Welsh Public Money;
- the Financial Statements.

The FReM does not require the Welsh Government to follow the Performance Reporting requirements, including Sustainability Reporting.

Whilst the FReM is applicable to all UK public sector bodies within the Central Government classification, the primary scope of the FReM by volume and value is entities reporting to the UK Government. As such the requirements of the Performance Report and Sustainability Reporting are oriented towards the tracking of progress on agreed plans for UK Parliamentary reporting.

For this reason, exemptions are in place to ensure that Welsh Government is able to report in a manner that reflects its' Devolved Government status. Consideration is given annually to publications already in the public domain reporting upon Welsh Government performance and sustainability reporting requirements such as:

- The Welsh Government Annual Report
- Wellbeing of Wales reporting including National Indicators
- Welsh Government Budgets
- Welsh Government Out-turn reporting
- Welsh Public Sector carbon emissions reporting



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Where information is available in the public domain, rather than duplicate, signposting is used (consistent with the FReM guidance) to direct users to where information may be found. In particular, progress against the Welsh Ministers Programme for Government commitments for 2023-24 are reported in the Welsh Government Annual Report. Given relatively recent changes in First Minister and Cabinet, further discussion is required with regard to 2024-25 reporting to determine whether current reporting structures will remain as they are, which could impact upon the Consolidated Accounts content.

The content of the Performance Report therefore focuses upon the Welsh Government activity to support the First Minister and Cabinet to deliver their priorities and is determined annually in conjunction with the Principal Accounting Officer, being mindful of the FReM guidance of the need to consider how best to tell the 'story' of the financial year in review to achieve a fair, balanced, and understandable report.

Recommendations from the Committee are particularly taken into account, along with developments in the operating environment and Welsh Government itself to ensure that the scope and structure is appropriate. Presenting a balanced overview of a year's activities for Welsh Government given the breadth of work undertaken whilst maintaining a useable and accessible document is a matter of judgement.

I hope the Committee will welcome developments we have made for 2023-24 in the format of the Consolidated Accounts, the structure and flow of the Performance Report, the presentation of Grants expenditure and the presentation of corporate risks being just a few of the developments introduced with the aim of improving the accessibility and usability of the information.

Yours,
Andrew Goodall

Dr Andrew Goodall
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol/ Permanent Secretary
Llywodraeth Cymru/ Welsh Government



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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Gwasanaethau Corfforaethol ac Arolygiaethau
Corporate Services and Inspectorates

Mark Isherwood MS
Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

Ein Cyf/Our Ref: 241219/PBU/TM
20 December 2024

Dear Mr Isherwood,

Public Appointments

I am writing to update the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee on the work being undertaken to determine the Welsh language assessment of our board members.

In the first week of January, we will be issuing board members with a short survey to capture their Welsh language skills (listening, reading, speaking and writing). We aim to update the Committee on the outcome of that survey by the end of February 2025. This is in line with Action 1.1 of the Reflecting Wales in Running Wales strategy and will allow us to establish a baseline to guide future action. This survey will capture data from Public Sector Bodies listed in the Order in Council as following the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

We will incorporate Welsh language proficiency into future data collection efforts for board members going forward. Welsh language skills are an important aspect of representation on our boards, and we are dedicated to building boards that reflect the linguistic and cultural diversity of Wales.

I hope this is helpful to the Committee in considering its Inquiry into Public Appointments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Moss', with a horizontal line above it.

Tim Moss
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol a Phrif Swyddog Gweithredol
Llywodraeth Cymru
Director General and Chief Operating Officer
Welsh Government

Agenda Item 3

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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Agenda Item 7

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