Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

By email

19th January 2022

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your request for a breakdown of the requests of support that my office has received since May 2018.

Please find attached the information requested.

The Excel document includes the list of all formal requests my team has received between May 2018 (when my team began recording these in a consistent format) and 14th December 2021 (which is the date when the requested analysis was undertaken). We expect that some additional requests may not have been recorded – particularly those that took place in meetings or reached us through less formal channels than e-mail. Also, this does not include the spontaneous advice given by my team during meetings or the many speeches or presentations given by my team and myself at conferences, workshops, or meetings.
The table captures requests for our help directly to us in writing and it provides a useful overview of the volume of asks that are directed to my office.

In summary, we have received **1,061** requests in total from everyone since May 2018 when our records started. Of these, my team has managed to complete **708** (~68% of all requests received). The rest have either been declined due to capacity or because beyond my area of focus; are still in progress; or have been cancelled for reasons like lack of response from the person requesting support.
The number of requests my office has received from public bodies in this time is **362** (~34% of all requests). **157** of these have come solely from Welsh Government.

Since the publication of your report on the barriers to the implementation of the Act, I have been piloting having a dedicated team to act of a point of contact for each public body, funded by my historical reserves. This has led to an increase of 179% of requests over the last year.

As part of the pilot, we have asked public bodies what support they would like going forward and 22 Public Bodies have requested specific and tailored support. These requests are generally not simple and straightforward. They include requests for 'handholding' advice and support in major policy areas such as Vale of Glamorgan request for help on food poverty and working with the third sector, 4 local authorities requesting help on implementing the Act in procurement, NRW advice on their 2050 vision and plan, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board request for help on addressing health inequalities post covid, Arts Council request help in better embedding their wellbeing objectives in their whole organisational approach, request from Torfaen to help scrutiny committee members make better use of the Act in Scrutiny, Cardiff and Vale Health Board on their shaping clinical futures plan.

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As you know and have recognised in your report, capacity and my level of resources is an issue for the delivery of this work, in particular as this is an exercise of power rather than the discharge of my core duties. This year, as we move towards need based budgeting, I have asked Welsh Government for increased resources to help me offer more support to public bodies and those who can help achieve the well-being goals as set out in the Act and to implement your recommendations.

If this increase is not agreed, my baseline funding will mean that I will have to reject even more requests as I focus my limited resources to my core duties to promote the sustainable development principle in general and monitor and assess the extent to which well-being objectives are being met.
I hope that you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

Sophie

Sophie Howe
Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru / Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

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