

Jane Hutt MS
Minister for Social Justice

15 February 2022

Dear Jane

Future Generations Commissioner: Review of public bodies subject to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

We held our annual scrutiny session with the Future Generations Commissioner on 7 February 2022.

One of the areas we discussed with the Commissioner was the current review of public bodies subject to the *Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015* (the Act). As I noted during the Plenary debate on the Draft Budget 2022-23, we were concerned to hear about the number of additional public bodies currently being considered and the potential impact this would have on the Commissioner's capacity.

It is important that the resources allocated to the Commissioner be commensurate to the work that her office is expected to undertake. I would therefore be grateful if you could provide further information on this review, including the number of bodies being considered and whether you could update us on your consideration of the Commissioner's budget estimate, which asks for a significant increase in the Commissioner's resources.

During our scrutiny session, the Commissioner expressed concern about comments made by the former Permanent Secretary when giving evidence to the Public Accounts Committee in the Fifth Senedd. When asked whether she had had to challenge a Minister regarding an inconsistency between the policy or approach that a Minister wanted to take and the Act, the Permanent Secretary replied that she could not think of any examples. Could you confirm if you agree with this assessment? I would be grateful if you could outline what systems the Welsh Government has in place to ensure that its business and conduct is compliant with the Act.

I am copying this letter to the Future Generations Commissioner, the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee and the Chair of the Finance Committee.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee