

Mark Drakeford AM
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
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Your ref:
Our ref: PO111/EJ/BD

8 November 2016

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter dated 27 October regarding the appointment of the Chair of the Welsh Revenue Authority.

I welcome your suggestion of a pre-appointment hearing taking place by an Assembly Committee and I believe the hearing would be a matter for the Finance Committee.

Whilst fully supporting this approach, I am conscious that should we have a hearing of this nature, it is important to consider the role of the Committee. Whilst the Assembly already undertakes pre-appointment hearings in relation to some Assembly appointments, such as the Standards Commissioner and the Public Service Ombudsman, I believe this will be the first pre-appointment hearing for a Ministerial Appointment. As such we will need to think carefully about how the outcome of the Committee hearing will be taken into account by yourself in making a final appointment decision. Whilst appreciating the appointment decision is a matter for the Executive, I would be grateful for your assurances with regards to how the Committee's views will inform the appointment process.

I am aware that you have previously called for the Assembly to have a more prominent role in the scrutiny of public appointments in Wales, and this is an approach I support – it is important for the Assembly to scrutinise key public appointments and I would welcome this approach from other Government Ministers. I believe the Assembly having a more formal role in appointments will

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bring the Assembly in line with current procedures in Westminster, and will help to monitor public appointments to ensure that high standards and accountability are maintained. I am aware that the Business Committee and the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee have both expressed an interest in this area and I will share this correspondence with the respective Committee Chairs. I have also copied to Simon Thomas AM as Chair of Finance Committee.



Elin Jones AM
Llywydd

