

Grwp yr Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol
Economy, Skills and Natural Resources Group

Dirprwy Ysgrifennydd Parhaol • Deputy Permanent Secretary

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

23 June 2017

Dear Mr Ramsay

Thank you for your letter of 21st June in which you asked me to review my decision on attendance at the scheduled Public Accounts Committee session on 26th June.

I do appreciate the strong feelings of the Committee on this issue and I have reflected carefully on your letter.

As the Additional Accounting Officer for this area of Welsh Government expenditure I have a very real responsibility to ensure that the Public Accounts Committee is given every assistance by the Welsh Government and has the appropriate information and evidence made available to it to assist in its deliberations. However, as Deputy Permanent Secretary, I also have responsibility to ensure that the First Minister and Cabinet are given the fullest possible support as they prepare to take this very important decision.

In the circumstances, therefore, I do think it important that Mick McGuire and Chris Munday are able to give their full attention on Monday to finalise preparations for the Cabinet discussion which is due to take place the next day. I think that I can best give the Committee the evidence which it has very legitimately requested by making myself available for the meeting and by bringing with me Mrs Tracey Mayes who has detailed knowledge of the circumstances that were dealt with in the Wales Audit Office report. I hope in this way that I can discharge both of the duties upon me in these particular circumstances.

I have discussed the contents of this letter with the Permanent Secretary.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Price,".

James Price



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