

Carl Sargeant AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

16 October 2017

Dear Carl,

Thank you for your letter dated 13 September 2017 in which you set out the Welsh Government's response to the Public Accounts Committee report on the Regulation of Housing Associations. The Committee considered the response at its meeting held on 25 September. The Committee welcomed the Welsh Government's acceptance of 14 of the reports 15 recommendations and will monitor progress against those recommendations in due course. We hope the findings of our inquiry will also prove useful to scrutiny of the forthcoming Bill to reform the regulatory controls for registered social landlords in Wales.

However, the Committee are concerned with the Welsh Government's partial acceptance of recommendation 1 of the report, which recommended that the Welsh Government's regulation team is routinely permitted to recruit externally.

In partially accepting our recommendation we note that the Welsh Government's approach will continue as it is, which is not to routinely advertise and recruit externally, but to first of all recruit internally, and if the vacancy cannot be filled then to make a special case to be allowed to recruit externally, which is exactly what the Committee has called for a change in. As a result the Committee does not deem its recommendation to have been accepted, not even partially.

We have raised wider concerns regarding the partial acceptance of the Committee's recommendations in correspondence to the Permanent Secretary and I have attached a copy of this correspondence for your information.



I trust you will consider these matters and I look forward to hearing from you shortly.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ramsay". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

**Nick Ramsay AM**  
**Chair**

