

Ken Skates AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a Thrafnidiaeth
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

27 July 2018

Dear Nick

I am writing following the debate in the chamber on 11th July on the Public Accounts Committee's report on the Welsh Government's initial funding of the Circuit of Wales project.

In my response I agreed to write to you with further information with regard to Recommendation 6 of the report outlining how many instances there have been in recent years where concerns about instructions from authorising officers to make payments have been raised, and some explanation of how these processes have proven to be robust.

Staff have a number of options of how to raise concerns should they arise, starting with their own line manager. If the member of staff does not feel comfortable raising concerns with their own line manager and wishes to proceed on an informal basis then they can discuss the matter further up the management chain, with an HR or Finance Adviser, with their Trade Union representative or with the Director of Governance, HR Director or Finance Director.

The Welsh Government also has a formal Whistleblowing Panel where concerns can be raised via one of the nominated officers of the Panel. The Whistleblowing policy and processes are regularly reviewed to ensure that they are robust and comply with the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

Approaches to the Panel are recorded however we do not keep statistics on issues raised through informal channels. The Whistleblowing statistics are published annually in the Welsh Government Accounts (<https://gov.wales/about/civilservice/how-we-work/facts-figures/ourfinance/welsh-government-consolidated-accounts/?lang=en>).

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.