

Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus Public Accounts Committee

Alun Ffred Jones AM
Chair of the Environment and
Sustainability Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA



26 September 2014

Dear Ffred,

As discussed at the Public Accounts Committee's meeting of 16 September, I am writing following the Auditor General for Wales's letter to you of 4 September, relating to the Future Generations (Wales) Bill.

As might be expected, the Public Accounts Committee has a close interest in the ability of the Auditor General to undertake Value for Money studies according to his judgement and priorities – including taking account of the Committee's views. This is a key issue for us, both as the Committee that scrutinised the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013 and as our programme of work is closely aligned with the Auditor General's series of Value for Money studies.

Naturally, the Public Accounts Committee is not aware of the Welsh Government's rationale for not including a duty on the Auditor General in the Bill, as was set out in the White Paper. Similarly, we are not aware of their assessment of the potential impact that the expectations set out in the Bill's Explanatory Memorandum will have on the ability of the Auditor General to determine his programme of Value for Money studies.

We would hope that the concerns raised by the Auditor General are given careful consideration by your Committee in scrutinising the Bill. Additionally, given our close interest in this matter, the Committee would be grateful if you could provide an update on this issue and your Committee's views in the course of your scrutiny.

I am copying this letter to the Auditor General for Wales, and to the Minister for Natural Resources.

Yours sincerely,

Darren Millar AM
Chair

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh