

Shan Morgan
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mr N Ramsay AM
Chair, Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

21 April 2020

Dear Mr Ramsay,

Independent QC Investigation

The Committee will have seen the Written Statement which the First Minister has released today in relation to events following on from the tragic death of Carl Sargeant. The First Minister says in his Statement that he invited Sir Brendan Barber to speak to the interested parties to see if a way forward could be found. As a result Sir Brendan has made two recommendations to the First Minister: that the Independent Investigation should not proceed, and that the Welsh Government should meet the reasonable outstanding legal costs of the Sargeant family. The First Minister has decided to accept and to implement both recommendations.

The Committee touched upon aspects of these events, and the associated leak investigation in particular, when I and my colleagues were giving evidence to the Committee last autumn on the annual accounts so I thought that it was appropriate that I should write to you formally about these matters.

On the basis of the recommendation from Sir Brendan the First Minister has agreed that the Welsh Government should meet the outstanding legal costs of the family. The reasons why this exceptional action is considered to be in the public interest are summarised in the response from the First Minister to Sir Brendan which is attached to the Statement. As Principal Accounting Officer for the Welsh Government I have been,



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of course, closely involved with advising the First Minister on this matter. The course of action set out in the First Minister's letter is consistent with the advice I provided.

I will of course respond to any questions which the Committee might have about the payment or any other aspect of these events, either in writing or as part of an evidence session.

I am copying this letter to the Auditor General for Wales.

Ys,
 Shan Morgan

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Ysgrifennydd Parhaol/ Permanent Secretary
Llywodraeth Cymru/ Welsh Government



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