

Mark Isherwood MS

Chair, Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

7 April 2022

Dear Mark

Annual scrutiny of the Future Generation Commissioner: an update (embargo 00.01 11 April 2022)

The Equality and Social Justice Committee held its annual scrutiny session with the Future Generations Commissioner on 7 February 2022. We agreed to publish a short report highlighting some of the key themes identified during our scrutiny. A copy of this report is enclosed for your information.

I would like to draw your attention specifically to our first recommendation:

Recommendation 1. We recommend that the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee carry out a review of the resourcing arrangements of Wales' Commissioners. This review could include consideration of whether any economies of scale can be achieved by the sharing of some backroom functions and staff.

Our report acknowledges that each Commissioner has different roles and responsibilities and that resourcing needs vary accordingly, but notes that clarification on the justification behind different resource allocations is lacking and warrants further scrutiny. We agreed that a review of the situation would be timely and that, given your Committee's expanded public administration remit, you may be best placed to carry out this work. The findings of our report make clear that the different roles and offices of the Welsh Commissioners have grown in a piecemeal fashion. Ultimately the onus is on the Welsh Government to better justify how each Commissioner is resourced. We believe that a holistic review by your Committee would be the first of its kind and would likely yield important insights and lesson learning for the appointment of future commissioners.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

