

Rhodri Glyn Thomas
President
National Library of Wales
Aberystwyth
SY23 3BU

1 May 2018

Dear Rhodri,

Scrutiny of Accounts 2016–17

Thank you for your responses to the recommendations addressed to the National Library of Wales (the Library) in the Public Accounts Committee's (the Committee's) Scrutiny of Accounts 2016–17 Report. The Committee considered the responses, along with those provided by other organisations to which it made recommendations, at its meeting on 16 April 2018.

The Committee notes and welcomes your response in which you set out in detail the changes that you have, and may, consider in respect of the pension fund. Members encourage the Library to continue to consider how best it can manage the related risks, including changes to the scheme and whether, on elimination of any deficit, it would be possible to move members into the Civil Service Pension Scheme.

Members also noted the information in response to its recommendations regarding financial planning (recommendations 3 and 22). Last month, the Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport issued the Library's Remit Letter for 2018–19. This set out its grant-in-aid funding for 2018–19, along with indicative allocations for 2019–20 (and 2020–21 for capital only). Revenue resource will remain at the same level as for 2017–18, while capital allocations include



additional amounts for maintenance of £3 million, £2.4 million and £0.275 million in 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21 respectively. Indicative funding levels beyond one year will allow the Library to better plan its delivery in the medium term and, in revisiting financial planning, enable officers to address a range of scenarios, such as variations in costs and identification of resources to respond to challenges. This is particularly important given the reference, in the supplementary information you provided, to the potential consequences in the event that the Library’s grant-in-aid decreases or remains at the same level as in previous years.

Finally, the Committee noted the Workforce Development Plan Timeline, provided in response to its request (recommendation 23). Members note that officers are due to analyse the results of the All Staff Skills Audit and report on skills gaps and future needs before presenting, in October 2018, a draft People Strategy/Workforce Development Action Plan to the Executive Team and Human Resources Partnership Council. The ‘Final Draft Plan’ is due to be presented to the Board of Trustees in late November 2018. Members ask that the Library provides an update to the Committee following the completion of this work, together with an assessment of the related implications, both operational and financial. I would welcome your comments on the other points in my letter by 1 September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair

