

Rebecca Evans AM
Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

4 June 2019

Dear Rebecca

Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013

I am writing further to your letter of **30 April 2019** in respect of the Finance Committee's consideration of proposals to amend the Public Audit (Wales) Act 2013.

The Committee considered your response at its meeting on 23 May 2019 and noted that you are content with the proposal to potentially amend the Act via a committee-led Bill. Members also welcomed your suggestion that the terms of reference should include consideration of any other proposals the Wales Audit Office has in respect of charging fees for work undertaken for the Welsh Government, the National Assembly and Public Services Ombudsman.

The Committee would like to invite you to an evidence session on **Thursday 11 July, 11.10-11.55**, to reflect on the operation of the Act to date and to explore the Welsh Government's views on proposals for change.

To inform this session, the Committee would be grateful to receive a written submission addressing the Committee's **terms of reference**. Specifically, the Committee would welcome an indication as to whether the Welsh Government is content for a potential committee-led Bill to address the statutory duty placed on the Auditor General for Wales to lay a copy of the certified accounts and report no later than four months after they are submitted.

You may recall that the Finance Committee **reported** on the limitations of the four month deadline when the Auditor General was required to certify and report on Natural Resources Wales Accounts 2015-16.

During the passage of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Act 2019, the Assembly agreed an amendment which provides the Auditor General with flexibility to submit the Ombudsman's certified accounts and reports after the default four month deadline (**paragraph 18 of Schedule 1**). Therefore, the Committee is interested in your views on ensuring that the same flexibility is afforded to the Auditor General in relation to other Welsh public bodies.



It would be helpful to receive your response by 27 June 2019. Should you require any clarification or further information, please contact: Georgina Owen, Committee Clerk, 0300 200 6387, SeneddFinance@assembly.wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Llyr', is centered on a light yellow rectangular background.

Llyr Gruffydd AM, Chair

