

Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus

Lleoliad:	I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a:
Fideogynhadledd drwy Zoom	Fay Bowen
Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 18 Ionawr 2021	Clerc y Pwyllgor
Amser: 08.30	0300 200 6565
	SeneddArchwilio@senedd.cymru

(Rhag-gyfarfod preifat)

(09.00 – 09.30)

Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 34.19, penderfynodd y Cadeirydd wahardd y cyhoedd o gyfarfod y Pwyllgor er mwyn diogelu iechyd y cyhoedd. Bydd y cyfarfod hwn yn cael ei ddarlledu'n fyw ar www.senedd.tv

1 Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau

(09.30)

2 Rhwystrau rhag Gweithredu Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r

Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 yn llwyddiannus: Sesiwn dystiolaeth 5

(09.30 – 10.45)

(Tudalennau 1 – 4)

Papur briffio gan y Gwasanaeth Ymchwil

Cyngor Sir Ceredigion

Alun Williams, Swyddog Arweiniol Corfforaethol

Diana Davies, Rheolwr Corfforaethol

Cyngor Sir Ynys Môn

Annwen Morgan – Prif Weithredwr

Y Cyng. Llinos Medi – Arweinydd

Gethin Morgan – Rheolwr Rhaglen, Cynllunio Busnes a Pherfformiad



(Egwyl)

(10.45 – 10.55)

3 Rhwystrau rhag Gweithredu Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 yn llwyddiannus: Sesiwn dystiolaeth 6

(10.55 – 12.10)

Cyngor Sir y Fflint

Karen Armstrong – Swyddog Gweithredol Busnes a Chyfathrebu Corfforaethol

Cyngor Sir Powys

Dr Caroline Turner – Prif Weithredwr

Emma Palmer – Bennaeth Trawsnewid a Chyfathrebu

4 Papur(au) i'w nodi

(12.10 – 12.15)

4a Ymchwiliad i COVID-19 a'i effaith ar faterion sy'n gysylltiedig â chylch gwaith y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus: Llythyr gan Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru (15 Rhagfyr 2020)

(Tudalennau 5 – 10)

4b Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru: Llythyr gan Clare Pillman, Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru (21 Rhagfyr 2020)

(Tudalennau 11 – 12)

4c Rhwystrau i weithredu Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 yn llwyddiannus: Crynodeb o ymgysylltu â phobl ifanc

(Tudalennau 13 – 21)

5 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42 i benderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o'r cyfarfod ar gyfer y busnes a ganlyn:

(12.15)

Eitem 6

**6 Rhwystrau rhag Gweithredu Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r
Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 yn llwyddiannus: Trafod y dystiolaeth a
ddaeth i law**

(12.15 – 12.30)

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

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Cyfeirnod: AC/237/caf
Dyddiad cyhoeddi: 15 Rhagfyr 2020

Annwyl Nick a Dai

Caffael a chyflenwi Cyfarpar Diogelu Personol (PPE) yn ystod pandemig COVID-19

Rwyf yn ysgrifennu atoch i roi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i chi am y gwaith y mae Archwilio Cymru yn ei wneud i edrych ar gaffael a chyflenwi Cyfarpar Diogelu Personol (PPE) yn ystod pandemig COVID-19.

Bu cryn ddiddordeb ym mater y PPE ers dechrau'r pandemig. Gwnaeth y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon (PIGCCh) sylwadau ynghylch cyflenwi PPE yn ei adroddiad ym mis Gorffennaf 2020 ar effaith a rheolaeth COVID-19 ym maes iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol. Derbyniodd y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus dystiolaeth am gaffael cyfarpar diogelu personol, gan gynnwys cadwyni cyflenwi domestig, ym mis Medi 2020 fel rhan o'i ymchwiliad i gaffael cyhoeddus.

Yn fwy diweddar, cynyddodd diddordeb ymhellach o ganlyniad i gyhoeddi dau adroddiad gan ein cydweithwyr yn y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol. Edrychai'r cyntaf o'r rhain ar waith caffael llywodraeth y DU yn ystod pandemig COVID-19, gan ganolbwyntio'n sylweddol ar gaffael cyfarpar diogelu personol ar gyfer iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol yn Lloegr. Rhoddwyd sylw helaeth yn y cyfryngau i ganfyddiadau'r Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol mewn perthynas â dull deul o ddod o hyd i gyflenwyr, llwybr blaenoriaeth uchel i asesu a phrosesu awgrymiadau PPE posibl gan swyddogion y llywodraeth, swyddfeydd gweinidogion, aelodau seneddol ac aelodau o Dŷ'r Arglwyddi, uwch staff y GIG a gweithwyr iechyd proffesiynol eraill. Edrychai'r ail adroddiad yn fwy eang ar gyflenwi PPE yn Lloegr,

gan roi sylw helaeth i'r cynnydd mawr yng nghost cyfarpar diogelu personol yn ystod y pandemig.

Ynglŷn â'n gwaith

Meddyliais y byddai efallai yn ddefnyddiol esbonio mwy am ein gwaith, sy'n cwmpasu'r un meysydd â'r Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol: caffael a chyflenwi cyfarpar diogelu personol. Bwriadwn adeiladu ar waith y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon ac ymchwilio'n ddyfnach i rai meysydd penodol, yn enwedig caffael. Disgwylwn i'n gwaith fod yn edrych i'r dyfodol ond yn seiliedig ar ddealltwriaeth gadarn o'r gwersi o gyfnodau cynnar y pandemig.

Mae ein cwmpas yn cynnwys caffael a chyflenwi cyfarpar diogelu personol ar gyfer yr holl wasanaethau cyhoeddus. Fodd bynnag, yn ymarferol, ar y GIG a gofal cymdeithasol y byddwn yn canolbwyntio'n bennaf. Hefyd, er ein bod yn cydnabod bod PPE wedi cael ei gaffael yn lleol, ni fydd hyn yn ffocws o bwys yn ein gwaith. Byddwn yn canolbwyntio'n bennaf ar y broses gaffael genedlaethol, dan arweiniad Llywodraeth Cymru a Phartneriaeth Cydwasanaethau GIG Cymru (y Cydwasanaethau).

Ar hyn o bryd, rydym yng nghyfnod gwaith maes yr astudiaeth. Rydym eisoes wedi cyfweld nifer o staff Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cydwasanaethau. Mae gennym fwy eto o gyfweiliadau i'w cynnal dros yr wythnosau sydd i ddod. Rydym hefyd wedi casglu tystiolaeth ddogfennol fanwl.

Wrth edrych am dystiolaeth, rydym hefyd wedi ysgrifennu at sefydliadau a ddarparodd dystiolaeth yn ymwneud â PPE fel rhan o ymchwiliad y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon yn gynharach eleni. Rydym wedi gofyn yn benodol am unrhyw dystiolaeth neu faterion newydd y byddant efallai yn dymuno eu rhannu â ni.

Hyd yma, mae ein gwaith maes wedi canolbwyntio ar gaffael cyfarpar diogelu personol. Mae gennym swm sylweddol o waith i'w wneud o hyd i gwblhau'r darlun sy'n dod i'r amlwg ar gaffael a chyflenwi. Ein bwriad yw cwblhau ein gwaith maes a chyhoeddi ein canfyddiadau llawn yn y gwanwyn.

Ffeithiau, ffigurau a rhai canfyddiadau sy'n dod i'r amlwg

Cyn cyhoeddi ein hadroddiad llawn, meddyliais y byddai'n fuddiol rhannu rhai ffeithiau a ffigurau yn ogystal â rhai canfyddiadau cynnar sy'n dod i'r amlwg. Hoffwn bwysleisio mai canfyddiadau cynnar yw'r rhain ac nad ydynt yn ddigyfnewid. Serch hynny, o ystyried lefel uchel diddordeb y cyhoedd yn y materion hyn a'u pwysigrwydd, ystyriaf ei bod yn werth nodi'r ffeithiau ynghylch rhai agweddau ar yr hyn yr ydym wedi'i ganfod i roi gwybodaeth ar gyfer unrhyw waith craffu sy'n parhau.

Ar ddechrau'r pandemig, roedd gan Lywodraeth Cymru 'bentwr o stoc pandemig' o PPE, a ddatblygwyd fel rhan o drefniadau'r DU gyfan, yr oedd yn bwriadu eu dosbarthu i gyrff iechyd a gofal cymdeithasol. Dywedodd Llywodraeth Cymru wrthym fod y cyfarpar hwn yn hanfodol yn ystod y don gyntaf. Fodd bynnag, ar

gyfer pandemig fflw yr oedd y pentwr wedi cael ei baratoi. Roedd y canllawiau a ddiweddarwyd ar gyfer amddiffyn staff y GIG rhag y coronafeirws yn gofyn am beth PPE ychwanegol, nad oedd yn y pentwr o gwbl, neu nad oedd yn cael ei gadw mewn symiau digonol i fodloni'r gofynion ychwanegol a achosid gan y coronafeirws. Felly, roedd angen i Lywodraeth Cymru, fel llywodraethau eraill ledled y byd, gaffael eitemau megis gynau gwrth-hylif a pheiriannau anadlu yn gyflym iawn. Ymhellach, deallwn na chyrhaeddodd rhai danfoniadau disgwylidig oddi wrth rai oedd yn cyflenwi eisoes, gan ddwysáu'r pwysau i gaffael mwy o PPE yn gyflym.

Dywedodd Llywodraeth Cymru wrthym ei bod yn rhagweld yn wreiddiol y byddai yna un dull o gaffael cyfarpar diogelu personol ar gyfer y DU i gyd. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried yr heriau, cytunodd â Llywodraeth y DU y byddai Llywodraeth Cymru yn hytrach yn cael arian drwy fformiwla Barnett ac yn cymryd y cyfrifoldeb am gaffael ei PPE ei hun. Dywedodd Llywodraeth Cymru wrthym ei bod wedi parhau i weithio gyda Llywodraeth y DU a'r cenhedloedd datganoledig eraill ar gaffael cyfarpar diogelu personol, lle mae cyfleoedd wedi codi.

Arweiniwyd y gwaith o gaffael cyfarpar diogelu personol yn gyflym ar gyfer GIG Cymru gan Bartneriaeth Cydwasanaethau GIG Cymru a swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru. Mae'r Cydwasanaethau wedi cymryd y cyfrifoldeb am ddarparu cyfarpar diogelu personol i wasanaethau y tu hwnt i'r GIG, yn arbennig i ofal cymdeithasol a chontractwyr annibynnol ym maes gofal sylfaenol.

Gwariant a dosbarthu cyfarpar diogelu personol

Fel y nodwyd yn ein [Hofferyn Data Cyllid GIG Cymru](#) yn ddiweddar, erbyn diwedd mis Medi 2020 roedd y GIG wedi gwario £130 miliwn ar PPE i Gymru. Mae hyn yn cynnwys £17 miliwn mewn caffael lleol gan fyrddau iechyd ac ymddiriedolaethau ar ben y £113 miliwn a wariwyd gan y Cydwasanaethau ar PPE. Mae cyfanswm y Cydwasanaethau yn cynnwys £37 miliwn ar gyfer cyflenwi cyfarpar diogelu personol i wasanaethau gofal cymdeithasol a gofal sylfaenol, megis meddygon teulu, fferyllwyr ac optegwyr.

Mae'r Cydwasanaethau yn disgwyl gwario £239 miliwn ar gyfarpar diogelu personol i Gymru erbyn diwedd mis Mawrth 2021, gyda gofal cymdeithasol a gofal sylfaenol yn cyfrif am 43% (£104 miliwn) o'r gwariant hwn.

Yn ogystal â'r gwariant ar PPE i Gymru, erbyn diwedd mis Medi, roedd Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwario £37 miliwn ar PPE ar ran rhannau eraill o'r DU. Mae'n disgwyl adennill y gwariant hwn. Nid ydym eto wedi archwilio'r trefniadau ariannol sydd yn eu lle gyda'r gwledydd eraill.

Mae adroddiad y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol ar gyflenwi PPE yn tynnu sylw at y cynnydd sylweddol yng nghost PPE ar ddechrau'r pandemig. Dywedodd y Cydwasanaethau wrthym mai 'marchnad y gwerthwyr' oedd hi o ran llawer o eitemau, gyda llywodraethau ar draws y byd yn cystadlu am y cyflenwad prin. Byddwn yn edrych yn fanylach ar gostau cymharol eitemau cyn y pandemig ac yn ystod y pandemig. Lle bo'n briodol gwneud hynny, byddwn yn ceisio cymharu â'r prisiau a dalwyd gan rannau eraill o'r DU.

Erbyn 29 Tachwedd 2020, roedd y Cydwasanaethau wedi dosbarthu ychydig o dan 480 miliwn o eitemau o PPE ers 9 Mawrth 2020¹ gydag oddeutu 240 miliwn o'r rhain wedi cael eu rhoi i'r sector gofal cymdeithasol. Mae'r 480 miliwn o eitemau'n cynnwys 90.5 miliwn o ffedogau, 120 miliwn o fygydau², 4 miliwn o feisorau wyneb, 255 miliwn o fenig a 2 filiwn o ynau³.

Bwriadai Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cydwasanaethau adeiladu stoc glustogi 24 wythnos o PPE erbyn diwedd mis Tachwedd 2020. Dywedodd y Cydwasanaethau wrthym fod y stoc glustogi o PPE yn ei lle i raddau helaeth ar ddiwedd mis Tachwedd. Roeddent yn disgwyl derbyn peiriannau anadlu FFP3, a gynhyrchid gan frand arbennig, sydd wedi bod yn anodd eu caffael ledled y byd, ac roeddent yn disgwyl derbyn menig oedd wedi cael eu harchebu. Ymwelsom â'r warws, lle y cedwir cyfran o'r stoc glustogi. Cadarnhaodd yr ymweliad hwn inni faint enfawr y gweithrediad logistaidd. Ond nid ydym eto wedi adolygu'r modelu a ddefnyddiwyd i asesu a yw'r stoc glustogi yn ddigonol am 24 wythnos a byddwn yn gwneud hynny fel rhan o'n gwaith maes yn ystod yr wythnosau i ddod.

Dull contractio

O dan Reoliadau Contractau Cyhoeddus 2015 a chanllawiau cysylltiedig⁴ caiff cyrff cyhoeddus wneud contractau heb gystadleuaeth na hysbysebu cyn belled â bod rhesymau dilys dros frys eithafol. Defnyddiodd Llywodraeth Cymru, drwy'r Cydwasanaethau, yr eithriadau brys hyn ar gyfer caffael cyfarpar diogelu personol. Mae rhai manylion am gontractau wedi cael eu gosod yn ôl-weithredol ar wefan GwerthwchiGymru. Fel rhan o'n gwaith byddwn yn cadarnhau bod y gweithdrefnau cywir i hysbysu am gontractau yn cael eu dilyn.

Mae'r Cydwasanaethau wedi cytuno ar gontractau gyda thua 100 o ddarparwyr gwahanol. Fodd bynnag, gwerthoedd cymharol isel sydd i lawer o'r rhain. Mae gan oddeutu tri chwarter y cyflenwyr gontractau gwerth llai nag £1 filiwn ac mae tua hanner yn llai na £150,000. Roedd tua 94% o'r gwariant tan ddiwedd mis Medi 2020, gan gynnwys y gwariant ar ran rhannau eraill o'r DU, gyda phum cyflenwr.

Er bod y rhan fwyaf o'r contractau PPE yn uniongyrchol gyda chyflenwyr, mae rhai o'r contractau mwy yn cynnwys asiantau sy'n gweithredu fel cyfryngwyr gyda

¹ Ffynhonnell y data – [Ystadegau Cymru](#): Nifer wythnosol yr eitemau cyfarpar diogelu personol a ddosbarthwyd fesul dyddiad. Mae'r adroddiadau am yr eitemau PPE a ddosbarthwyd yn seiliedig ar unedau unigol, ac eithrio: menig lle yr adroddir am uned ar sail maint uned pecyn, a glanweithydd dwylo lle mae'r uned yn botel, waeth beth fo'i maint.

² Mae'r ffigur hwn yn cynnwys: Mwgwd Math I a Math II, mygydau Math IIR, mygydau FFP2, mygydau FFP3.

³ Mae'r ffigur hwn yn cynnwys: Gynau (gwrth-hylif) a Gynau (eraill).

⁴ Rheoliad 32 a Nodyn Polisi Caffael 01/20: Ymateb i COVID-19 – Mawrth 2020

gweithgynhrychwyr tramor. Fel rhan o'n gwaith maes, rydym yn archwilio ymhellach y defnydd o asiantau a'r costau cysylltiedig.

Er bod y rhan fwyaf o'r cyfarpar diogelu personol yn dod oddi wrth gyflenwyr rhyngwladol, gweithiodd Llywodraeth Cymru a'r GIG gyda gweithgynhrychwyr Cymru i ddatblygu cadwyni cyflenwi lleol. Dywedodd swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru wrthym fod hyn yn cynnwys cydweithio o fewn Llywodraeth Cymru, y GIG a Diwydiant Cymru drwy'r tîm peirianeg gofynion cyfarpar hanfodol (CERET). Bwriadwn ymchwilio'n fanylach i'r agwedd hon ar y broses gaffael yn ystod yr wythnosau nesaf.

Trefniadau gwirio a chymeradwyo

Dywedodd y Cydwasanaethau a Llywodraeth Cymru wrthym nad ydynt erioed wedi cael yr hyn fyddai'n cyfateb i'r dull 'llwybr blaenoriaeth uchel' dau drac o ganfod cyflenwyr posibl, a ddisgrifid gan y Swyddfa Archwilio Genedlaethol yn ei hadroddiad ar gaffael COVID-19 yn Lloegr. Yng Nghymru, chwaraeodd yr Hwb Gwyddorau Bywyd rôl allweddol fel pwynt cyswllt cyntaf ar gyfer cyflenwyr a gweithgynhrychwyr posibl oedd yn cael eu cyfeirio, lle roedd yn briodol, at y Cydwasanaethau. Dywedodd y Cydwasanaethau wrthym eu bod hefyd wedi canfod cyflenwyr newydd drwy eu rhwydweithiau presennol, drwy rai cyflenwyr eu hunain yn dod i gysylltiad â hwy, a thrwy atgyfeiriadau eraill. Er bod atgyfeiriadau wedi cael eu gwneud gan wleidyddion, dywedodd y Cydwasanaethau wrthym fod y rhain wedi mynd drwy'r un broses, craffu a blaenoriaethu, ag unrhyw gysylltiadau eraill. Rydym wrthi'n gwneud gwaith i ddeall yn llawnach sut yr oedd cyflenwyr yn cael eu nodi a sut y câi atgyfeiriadau eu rheoli.

Rhoddodd Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cydwasanaethau drefniadau llywodraethu diwygiedig yn eu lle ynghylch gosod contractau cyfarpar diogelu personol. Ar gyfer pob archeb oedd yn werth dros £1 filiwn roedd yn rhaid eisoes cael cymeradwyaeth Llywodraeth Cymru ymlaen llaw. At hynny, cyflwynwyd system o wiriadau diwydrwydd dyladwy, trefniadau craffu a hierarchaeth o gymeradwyaeth yn cynnwys bwrdd Ymddiriedolaeth GIG Felindre, sy'n cynnal y Cydwasanaethau, ac yn dibynnu ar werth a natur y contract. Sefydlodd y Cydwasanaethau Grŵp Llywodraethu Cyllid newydd i hyrwyddo gwneud penderfyniadau'n gyflym. Roedd y Grŵp hwn yn cynnwys uwch reolwyr yn y GIG gan gynnwys arbenigwyr mewn meysydd fel archwilio, atal twyll, caffael, cyfrifyddiaeth a'r gyfraith.

Dywedodd Llywodraeth Cymru a'r Cydwasanaethau wrthym fod natur y farchnad yn ystod y pandemig yn golygu bod cyflenwyr mewn rhai achosion yn gofyn am flaendaliad. Er mwyn rheoli'r risgiau, mewn nifer fechan o achosion, gwnaeth y Cydwasanaethau y taliadau hyn drwy gyfrif cytundeb annibynnol. Dywedodd y Cydwasanaethau a Llywodraeth Cymru wrthym fod y dull hwn yn golygu y gallai'r cyflenwyr weld bod y cyllid ar gael ond na allent dynnu'r arian i lawr hyd nes yr oedd y Cydwasanaethau wedi derbyn y nwyddau ac wedi gwirio eu bod yn bodloni'r safonau ansawdd gofynnol. Roedd yn rhaid i'r holl flaendaliadau gael eu cymeradwyo gan y Grŵp Llywodraethu Cyllid, gyda'r Grŵp yn atgyfeirio blaendaliadau o fwy na 25% o werth contract at Lywodraeth Cymru i'w

cymeradwyo ymlaen llaw. Byddwn yn edrych yn fanylach ar y ffordd yr oedd y system hon yn gweithio'n ymarferol yn ogystal â'r gwaith i wirio ansawdd, oedd yn cynnwys y Labordy Profi Deunyddiau Llawfeddygol (SMTL) ym Mhen-y-bont ar Ogwr.

Cynhaliodd gwasanaeth Archwilio Mewnol y GIG adolygiad o Drefniadau Llywodraethu Ariannol yn ystod Pandemig COVID-19, gan ganolbwyntio ar PPE, rhwng mis Mawrth a mis Awst 2020. Canfu, ym mhob achos, y cydymffurfiwyd â'r gweithdrefnau sy'n ymwneud â gwiriadau cefndir, cymeradwyaeth a chofnodi penderfyniadau, yr oedd Llywodraeth Cymru a'r GIG wedi eu rhoi yn eu lle. Nododd hefyd fod rhai gwelliannau wedi cael eu gwneud i'r trefniadau llywodraethu ariannol ac ansawdd y ddogfennaeth dros y cyfnod. Fel rhan o'n gwaith rydym yn bwriadu rhoi prawf ar sampl o gontractau. Wrth wneud hynny, bwriadwn ddibynnu ar waith yr Archwilio Mewnol o ran dilysu cydymffurfiaeth, tra byddwn ni'n gofyn cwestiynau ehangach ynglŷn â gwerth am arian.

Y camau nesaf

Dros yr wythnosau i ddod, bwriadwn gwblhau ein gwaith ar gaffael ac wedi hynny dechrau edrych yn fanylach ar y materion sy'n ymwneud â chynnal cyflenwad i staff y rheng flaen. Byddwn wedyn yn dechrau ffurfio ein casgliadau, llunio ein hadroddiad a mynd drwy ein proses arferol o'i glirio am gywirdeb ffeithiol gyda Llywodraeth Cymru a'r partïon eraill a enwyd.

Yn y cyfamser, os oes yna unrhyw beth arall y gallwn ei wneud i'ch helpu chi a'ch pwyllgorau ar y mater hwn, rhowch wybod imi, os gwelwch yn dda.

Yn gywir



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Nick Ramsay MS
Chair
Public Accounts Committee

By email:- SeneddPAC@senedd.wales

21 December 2020

Dear Nick

I hope that you and your colleagues are keeping safe and well.

[Our latest annual report](#)¹ has now been published so I thought it thought it would be useful to send it across to the committee, and provide an update on our Timber Sales Governance progress following the recommendations of the Grant Thornton review which we have discussed with you on a number of occasions.

The Timber Sales Governance project came to an end in June 2020 having been transitioning into Business as Usual since the start of December 2019. As you will be aware, NRW's Board instigated a number of checks to ensure continued robust oversight and due diligence against the objectives set as part of the project, and an Internal Audit progress review undertaken in June 2020 identified that further work was required to ensure that the improved ways of working were fully embedded.

We took immediate action to address this, including strengthening the team, providing additional training and maintaining Board scrutiny of this area of our work through our Audit and Risk Committee and an oversight group chaired by Sir David Henshaw. I am particularly pleased that Sarah Jennings, our new Executive Director of Communications, Customer and Commercial is leading this area at Executive Team level, and Rachael Cunningham, our new Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Services will also provide a degree of independent assurance.

We continue to work closely with Welsh Government and the forestry sector. Our endeavours to support the industry and keep operations running safely and within Government guidelines during lockdown meant that production continued without interruption in 2020, unlike elsewhere in the UK. All timber processors are now back up

¹ <https://cdn.cyfoethnaturiol.cymru/media/692608/annual-reports-and-accounts-2019-2020.pdf?mode=pad&rnd=132513842060000000>

and running, and we have been able to maintain our regular timber sales. In our 2020-21 Business Plan, which was revised and published in September, we were forecasting timber income of £29m. At the time of writing, we are on track to realise that forecast. The improvements in our relationships with the sector have been very evident during the Covid pandemic and we are determined that this will continue in 2021.

I hope that this will provide the Committee with assurance that NRW is progressively overcoming the challenges faced in recent years, and that we are on a steady course to creating a better future for Wales through the sustainable management of our environment and natural resources.

Best wishes



Clare Pillman

Prif Weithredwr, Cyfoeth Naturiol Cymru
Chief Executive, Natural Resources Wales

c.c. Sir David Henshaw, Chair, NRW
Lesley Griffiths MS, MEERA

Delivering for future generations: the story so far

Summary of engagement with young people

January 2021

As part of the inquiry into the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, the Public Accounts Committee sought the views of young people, given the nature of the Act and its relevance to future generations.

1. Engagement

In October 2020, the Chair wrote to over 70 educational institutions and youth groups to ask for their support to engage young people in the inquiry. Given the importance of the Act to young people, particularly in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and Wales' recovery from it, the Committee made every effort to hear from young people themselves. The Committee understood that due to the scale of the challenges faced by the education sector throughout the pandemic, that schools and youth groups might not have the capacity to engage.

The committee wanted to hear about young people's:

- awareness of the Act;
- experiences of how the Act has been implemented;
- views about what the barriers to implementing the Act are; and
- how it can be better implemented in future.

Resources were prepared to enable schools and youth groups to deliver an activity with their groups, gather young people's views and submit those views. These included:

[An activity resource pack](#); and

[A power Point presentation](#).

1.1. Promotion

The engagement resource was promoted extensively through a variety of channels, including the Senedd's website and social media platforms. Engaging content, such as a [blog](#) and [promotional video](#), catered for a variety of audiences. Focused social media advertisements enabled targeting of specific groups.

1.2. Respondents

A total of **14 young people**, aged 16 to 18, took part in the engagement. Participants came from two education providers: politics students from Crosskeys Campus, Coleg Gwent and Swansea 5 from Inspire Training.

2. Findings

Participants were asked to discuss and record what each of the 7 well-being goals meant to them and what barriers they believed will need to be overcome to achieve those goals.

2 of the 14 participants had heard of the Act and the Future Generations Commissioner, 12 had not.

2.1. A prosperous Wales

Participants felt that a prosperous Wales develops social mobility, good mental health services and a sustainable environment and economy.

Social mobility was depicted by participants as the opportunity to escape poverty through learning new skills; the ability to earn a fair wage and access to affordable housing, in towns and cities which no longer have '*rough areas*'.

"A prosperous Wales would have a stronger private sector. People need to be in good well-paying employment".

Participants identified good mental health as a marker of a prosperous Wales. Access to mental health services, a healthy balanced diet and school qualifications not based upon exams were put forward as ways to support a prosperous Wales.

"A healthy population is important for the prosperity of the country",

Participants saw a sustainable environment and economy as very important to a prosperous Wales. Sustainable forms of energy were seen as essential for the environment and the economy.

“Industries with a firmer hand to push forward a greener environment, there’s a chance to enhance skills and offer jobs”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a prosperous Wales would be a lack of environmental action and political strength, and brain drain.

In relation to environmental action, participants agreed that a lack of education and motivation could be barriers to remedying the environmental problems. The Welsh Baccalaureate was also deemed not to be the correct avenue to “address global issues”.

Participants also felt that businesses should take more environmental responsibility:

“There’s too much emphasis on the consumer to make changes for the environment when it usually costs more and is more time consuming when large businesses / factories etc. are still mass producing plastic or other damaging products”.

Political strength was also seen by participants as a potential barrier to achieving a prosperous Wales. A more ethnically diverse Welsh government was suggested as a remedy to this barrier. Some saw Wales as “small on a world stage” with the Welsh government not having enough powers to fully deliver a prosperous Wales:

“The UK government is suggesting that devolution was a mistake; they may remove powers within the next five years. Independence is rising in Wales but is still very low. The UK government is clawing back powers from Wales”.

Finally, participants suggested that a brain drain, whereby people from Wales seek professional opportunities in other countries, would be a barrier to achieving a prosperous Wales:

“If you want money go to England, we need good brains and able people”.

2.2. A resilient Wales

Participants felt that a resilient Wales prepares for the future with a strong economy.

Participants agreed that being prepared for the future was indicative of a resilient Wales, including preparedness for disasters and climate change. Participants felt that a strong economy was important for a resilient Wales and highlighted the possibilities of a green economy to produce 100% renewable energy.

“When the coal mines were closed down, the rate of poverty increased. We lost our traditional industries. We need a strong economy”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a resilient Wales would be political strength and societal attitudes.

Participants argued that the UK government holds too much power and is too involved in decisions made in Wales. Moreover, the short-term appointments of politicians and governments was highlighted as a barrier in taking forward long-term issues. Despondent attitudes within society was seen as a barrier not only to change but to political challenge:

“It’s the fault of the governing party if ultimately things aren’t right – so change the party for fresh ideas. It’s a dominant party, always using the same strategies, becoming complacent – they need to be challenged”.

2.3. A healthier Wales

Participants felt that a healthier Wales focuses on prevention as much as cure, prioritises mental health services and trains skilled practitioners.

Participants agreed that lowering the price of healthy foods would help focus on prevention as much as cure to create a healthier Wales.

“Access to healthy and nutritious meals – emphasised support to lower income families. Basic needs must be met! (Maslow’s hierarchy of needs)”.

Access to mental health services was identified as an element of a healthier Wales, including mental health support in schools and education about eating disorders.

“In a healthier Wales, support for mental health is easily accessible – A mental health specific GP surgery, purely for mental health, where you register like you would for a GP, should be available to everyone”.

Participants recognised that training practitioners and keeping professionals within Wales was an element of a healthier Wales.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a healthier Wales would be lifestyle choices, education and hospital closures.

Participants considered that people need to make better lifestyle choices and that reluctance to do so was a barrier to a healthier Wales. Participants felt that the cost of eating healthily and joining a gym exacerbated the issue.

“Unhealthy food is cheaper and gym membership can be expensive. It can also be expensive to travel to gyms”.

Discussions highlighted the closures of hospitals and accidents and emergency departments as a barrier, along with not enough focus on non-core subjects in schools.

“There’s too much focus on core subjects in school, more time is needed for arts, sports, cooking, life skills etc”.

2.4. A more equal Wales

Participants felt that a more equal Wales addresses poverty and discrimination, and has an accessible education system.

Participants agreed that a more equal Wales would have addressed poverty, fair distribution of resources and transport infrastructure.

“A lot of Wales is poor, more opportunities are needed and offered to those living in poverty, We need more of a balance – rich v poor”.

“Race, class and poverty need to not matter in terms of progression”.

Participants also highlighted that discrimination and racism played no part in a more equal Wales, and that diversity was important:

“More equal representation in parliament. We need more ethnic minorities!”

Finally, participants felt strongly that a more equal Wales would provide an accessible and affordable education system to everyone. Tuition fees and the opportunities offered by state compared to private education, was seen as matters hindering a more equal Wales..

“Tuition fees – get rid of them and make education more affordable. Reintroduce grants. Similar to a parent’s wage e.g. tax. Should be based on income”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a more equal Wales would be society’s attitude and the social divide.

Participants stressed that the media played a role in creating barriers to a more equal Wales through discrimination and by perpetuating class stereotypes. Participants felt that public perception, from those “not educated on modern matters of a forever changing society”, would be a significant barrier.

Participants saw a widening social divide as a significant barrier to a more equal Wales. This was illustrated with examples from the education sector:

“Standards and facilities within schools and colleges vary greatly resulting in poor and insufficient education with fewer opportunities in state schools”.

“There’s a postcode bias on state schools”.

2.5. A Wales of more cohesive communities

Participants felt that a Wales of more cohesive communities enjoys good housing and facilities, with strong local democracy.

Participants felt that there would be safe, adequate housing within communities with strict rules to ensure landlords provided fit for purpose housing. It was agreed that housing should be affordable and that people could work from home where possible.

“No one should be homeless”.

It was agreed that communities would have thriving community centres and transport links to ensure a more cohesive community and that support to learn conversational Welsh would be available.

“Everyone has the opportunity to learn Welsh. If they force it people won’t enjoy it. Maybe just conversational Welsh should be taught effectively”.

Finally, participants deemed local democracy as an important element of a Wales of cohesive communities. The idea that local people have a say in what gets built, events, services provided and local budget decisions was a strong theme.

“Communities should thrive on their own, looking after their local area. Communities need more going on to create bonds”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a more cohesive Wales would be nonprogressive town centres and poor employment opportunities.

Participants agreed that nonprogressive towns centres would be a barrier to more cohesive communities. A lack of funding and choice of shop, along with poor spaces for face to face contact were seen as the primary barriers faced.

“Parking charges in town centres, we need to rethink them totally because of internet shopping”.

Poor employment opportunities was also seen as a barrier to more cohesive communities, with a lack of work-life balance and the need to travel further for well-paying jobs being the examples given.

“Young people will have to travel to the city for high paying jobs, meaning moving away from their local communities due to poor transport and job opportunities”.

2.6. A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language

Participants felt that a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language combines culture and education, and is fully bilingual.

Participants felt that a thriving Wales would deliver a curriculum that taught young Welsh people about their history and culture.

In relation to the compulsory teaching of the Welsh language, many agreed that it should remain compulsory but taught for enjoyment and “not for the grades”.

“Compulsory Welsh language courses should not have so much pressure – they teach it and make it so stressful. Such as poetry. Make it more fun and conversational. And offer separate accreditations for different levels”.

Participants agreed that a bilingual society is positive for communities and is an important element of a thriving Wales.

“We should have full or majority bilingualism”.

“Culture is vital – language is part of our culture so should be celebrated but not forced upon us”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language would be attitude, poor uptake in adult Welsh language courses and a lack of creativity in schools.

Participants agreed that a significant barrier would be a dismissive attitude towards the Welsh language and our place within the world.

“We need to adopt a new attitude. Maybe because the language has been thrust upon us”.

“People feel that we have no impact on the world stage or not aware of it”.

It was agreed that uptake in adult Welsh language courses, possibly due to lack of time or opportunity, would be a barrier

“There are not many opportunities to learn Welsh when you finish school”.

Finally, participants agreed that not seeing creative skills and subjects as equally important to other subjects as a barrier in achieving a culturally vibrant Wales:

“Schools are too target driven. There’s no time for Eisteddfods or extra-curricular activities”.

2.7. A globally responsible Wales

Participants felt that a globally responsible Wales sources goods responsibly and is a progressive country on the world stage.

Participants felt that sourcing responsibly, ensuring that we do not have a negative impact on people and the environment, is essential for a globally responsible Wales.

“There should be a ban on products made in sweat shops and clothes should be affordable but responsibly sourced”.

Being a progressive country on the world stage was deemed to be possible and important in relation to a globally responsible Wales.

“In relation to climate change we could be carbon neutral. We are only a small country but we can inspire nations and countries e.g. charging for plastic bags”.

Participants suggested that the barriers faced in achieving a globally responsible Wales would be attitude and a lack of legislative power.

Participants agreed that major changes are needed in attitudes towards waste, sustainable living and renewable energy if Wales is to become globally responsible.

“People complain about wind farms. Wales should be covered in them, by using our coastline and countryside”.

Finally, a lack of legislative power to make decisions over water and renewable energy production for example were seen as a barrier to a globally responsible Wales.

“Taking climate policy into our own hands gives us more control, but we do not have enough powers, we are not independent”.