

Adolygiad Comisiynydd Plant Cymru

Children's Commissioner for Wales Review

David Melding AM
Chair, NAW Constitutional
Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff.
CF99 1NA

Copy Gareth e ante for advice

Our Ref:

Your Ref:

Date: 23 July 2014

Dear Mr Melding

You may be aware that the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty has announced that I am to lead an independent review into the role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales (CCfW). I feel very privileged to be taking forward this important work.

I wanted to draw your attention to the review in your capacity as chair of the Constitutional Affairs Committee. My intention is to engage extensively with the National Assembly for Wales, particularly with the Presiding Officer, your committee and the Children, Young People and Education Committee. I also hope to be providing further opportunities for AMs to meet me individually.

The broad themes of the review are set out in the full remit letter (attached) from the Minister. Members of your committee may be particularly interested in my remit to examine the interface between the CCfW, the Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales.

I will want to consider if the current arrangements enable the appropriate scrutiny of the Commissioner's role and functions and, equally, the extent to which the independence of the office is appropriately and sufficiently secured.

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Another key aspect will be the examination of the CCfW's remit limitations, currently linked to the devolution settlement. I will look at how clear are the divisions of responsibilities between the CCfW and UK counterparts, and what practical issues, if any, do or could arise. I will also ask about the degree to which the current legislative framework clarifies and supports the role and the impact it might make.

If you wish to contribute to the review formally via the call for evidence (in writing) or would like me to meet the Committee (or with you as chair) informally to discuss some of the issues to which I have referred, please get in touch with my review team ([via ccfwreview@wales](mailto:via_ccfwreview@wales)).

My intention is to publish a finalised report with recommendations in December. I therefore aim to have established the emerging key themes and concluded much of my external engagement by October.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Dr Mike Shooter CBE

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on behalf of Children in Wales / Plant yng Nghymru <info@childreninwales.org.uk>
Sent: 23 July 2014 15:18
To: Melding, David (AM, Deputy Presiding Officer)
Subject: Call for Evidence - Review of the role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

Call for Evidence - Review of the role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales

As you may know, I have been asked by the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty to undertake a review to the role and functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales. Wales was the first UK country to have such a commissioner, with the office being established in 2001; mine is the first review of the office since its establishment. The current Children's Commissioner for Wales, Keith Towler, has previously called for and has welcomed this review.

My review will focus on six key areas:

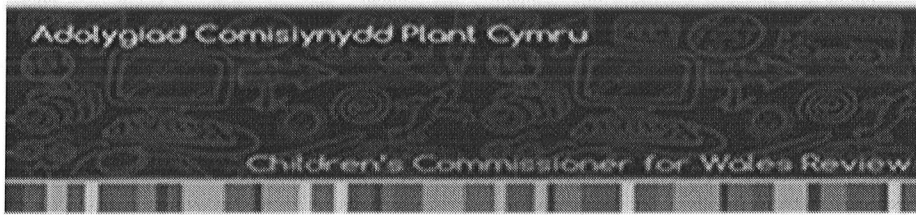
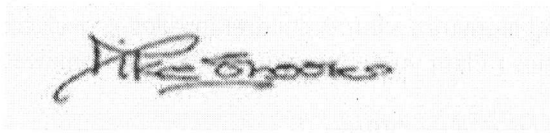
1. the role and functions of a Children's Commissioner for Wales;
2. the impact that the role has had;
3. the suitability and effectiveness of the underpinning legislation;
4. accountability and governance;
5. value for money; and
6. accessibility.

In December I will provide the Welsh Government with a report and recommendations across these six areas. To achieve this I will meet a range of people across Wales and beyond to listen to and seek to understand their views and perspectives on the Children's Commissioner. I would like to hear from as many people as possible. With this in mind, I am issuing my 'Call for Evidence'. This is intended to provide an opportunity to gather a range of in-depth information. Alongside the Call for Evidence, and as an alternative or supplementary option, we have also developed an online survey. The survey will consist mainly of yes/no questions with an option to expand on answers. Please feel free to use either - or both - engagement tools, as you see fit.

Children and young people are, of course, vital to the review. Two separate versions of the survey have also been specifically designed for different age groups (although it is of course open to children and young people to complete any of the other surveys). It would be great if you could encourage children and young people to feedback to us. If you work with children and young people you may wish to conduct your own workshop and to let us know how that goes. All documents are downloadable. I have also recently awarded a contract to deliver a large number of workshops for children and young people across Wales. Further details will appear shortly.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the Call for Evidence to your stakeholders. Please help ensure that voices are heard so I can make recommendations that build on and strengthen the role of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

You can complete the Call for Evidence [here](#).



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