

Pwyllgor Cyllid
Finance Committee
Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA



Leighton Andrews AM
Minister for Public Services

3 June 2015

Dear Minister

Inquiry into the Consideration of Powers: Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

The Finance Committee has concluded its [inquiry into the consideration of powers of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales](#) and published its [Report](#) on 11 May.

At our meeting on 13 May, we considered our options for introducing a Bill. We appreciate that the time remaining in this Assembly is limited and it is unlikely a Bill will proceed through the legislative process in this time. Therefore, the Committee has decided to prepare a draft Bill with a view to undertaking a consultation before the end of this Assembly. We hope that this approach will ensure there is a draft Bill available to be introduced into the Fifth Assembly should a Committee, or indeed the Welsh Government, wish to do so at that time.

As you will be aware, one of the Ombudsman's main proposals was seeking the use of own initiative powers. It is the Committee's understanding that the Auditor General for Wales is able to undertake studies for improving the economy, efficiency, and effectiveness in the discharge of functions of a relevant body, as such amounting to own initiative powers. It would be helpful for our preparation in drafting a Bill, if you could outline the Welsh Government's experience of the Auditor General's use of own initiative powers in his value for money inquiries. In addition to this, if you have a view on any other aspects of the Committee's report, please feel free to respond and the Committee will take these into consideration.

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I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jocelyn Davies". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Jocelyn Davies AM
Committee Chair**

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