

Nick Bennett
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

16 March 2017

Dear Nick,

DRAFT PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (WALES) BILL

Thank you for appearing before the Committee to discuss the Regulatory Impact Assessment you commissioned for the Draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill. We found the session extremely useful and are minded to proceed with the introduction of the draft Bill.

However, we will require further information specifically on the indirect costs of the Bill in order to comply with the Assembly's Standing Orders. Additionally, as the Finance Committee's primary function is to consider expenditure from the Welsh Consolidated Fund, we believe it is essential that any bill introduced includes detailed and measured costings. It would be remiss of us as a Committee to bring forward a bill for introduction which did not meet our own standards.

We recognise that there are challenges and limitations in terms of quantifying these costs due to a lack of evidence and data available and note your comments that the additional research required to obtain further data could be considered disproportionate.

Nevertheless, we believe that you should be able to provide a best estimate of the costs to those affected by the Bill's proposals based on the work you already undertake, in order to fully satisfy the requirements set out in Standing Order 26.6(viii).



We would be grateful to receive this information from you by the end of April, if possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Thomas'.

Simon Thomas
Chair

