

Nick Bennett
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

24 May 2017

Dear Nick,

DRAFT PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (WALES) BILL

Thank you for providing further information on your best estimates of the costs to the public bodies affected by the provisions of the draft Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill.

Assembly officials have produced an early draft of the Explanatory Memorandum (EM) and Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA), incorporating the costs and benefits you have provided (Annex A).

In developing the EM, officials have made some assumptions and identified the need for clarification or additional information in a number of places. I would be grateful for your input on the queries raised (shown in italic text within the EM) and for any general comments you may have on the draft EM. Officials have provided further explanation of the specific queries in Annex B and are happy to discuss these queries further with your officials, by telephone or in person, in order to expedite the development of the EM if that would be helpful.

The Committee has considered the provisions of the draft Bill prepared by its predecessor committee and has raised the following questions:

1. What criteria would you expect to establish in relation to own initiative investigations under section 5 of the draft Bill? The Committee would find it helpful to have sight of a draft criteria.
2. What is the justification for the discretion set out in section 16(2), in relation to preparing and submitting an investigation proposal under section 4?



I would be grateful for your response to these questions, and to the queries raised in relation to the EM, at your earliest convenience to allow the Committee to progress this issue.

Yours sincerely



Simon Thomas AM

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

