

Grwp yr Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol  
Economy, Skills and Natural Resources Group

Dirprwy Ysgrifennydd Parhaol • Deputy Permanent Secretary

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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

18 October 2017

Dear Nick Ramsay

### **National Library of Wales: A review of Governance Report**

Further to your letter dated 20 February 2017 regarding the above and my response dated 20 March, I am now writing to provide a full response in respect of the legal process following the fire as this matter has now been drawn to a conclusion.

You asked about us working with the National Library on the possible pursuit of litigation following the fire. The Library initially worked with their legal advisers on the investigation of the fire and whether it was worth the Library pursuing claims against various third parties. They then advised us in 2015 that they had reached a point where they would need additional funding in order to pursue these claims further. Since that time we have worked jointly with the Library and their legal advisers on these matters. I approved expenditure on legal fees of up to £57,000 for this work, to pursue potential claims against three parties who were involved in the process, based on a clear strategy, and which took account of Counsel opinion.

We have now reached a point where I have decided not to pursue any of these potential claims any further, based on an analysis in each case of the legal arguments, the further costs which would be incurred, and the prospects of bringing the claims to a successful conclusion. I have therefore provided my approval to abandon the pursuit of the potential claims, and I can advise the Committee that the legal process has been completed.

The legal costs incurred amounted to some £36,000.

Yours sincerely

**James Price**