

Nick Bennett,
Public Services Ombudsman for Wales

17 April 2018

Dear Nick,

PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (WALES) BILL

I am pleased that the Assembly agreed to the general principles (Stage 1) of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill on 21 March 2018. I thought it would be helpful to provide you with an update on how the Bill is progressing.

The Bill has now proceeded to Stage 2, which means Assembly Members are able to table amendments to the Bill. However, as a financial resolution has yet to be tabled and agreed by the Assembly (a process which can only be initiated by the Government), Committee proceedings to discuss and vote on amendments cannot yet take place.

In September 2017, the Business Committee considered the timetable for the Bill and agreed a provisional deadline of 18 May 2018 for completion of Stage 2. I have written to the Business Committee indicating that an extension to the deadline may be necessary.

I have also written to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance to arrange a meeting to discuss how we can work together to progress the Bill in a manner which is satisfactory, with a view to establishing what further work on the Bill is required to enable the Government to bring forward a financial resolution.

As you may be aware, during the Stage 1 debate, I accepted the majority of recommendations made by the Equality, Local Government and Communities



Committee. Work is currently being undertaken to update the Regulatory Impact Assessment in the Explanatory Memorandum and I am pleased that your officials are assisting in providing the necessary information.

The Committee Clerk leading on this Bill will contact you to provide further information when available. If you have any queries please contact Leanne Hatcher (Leanne.hatcher@assembly.wales).

Yours sincerely

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

Simon Thomas AM

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

