

Meri Huws
Welsh Language Commissioner

08 May 2018

Dear Meri

PUBLIC SERVICES OMBUDSMAN (WALES) BILL

As you may be aware, on 21 March 2018 the National Assembly agreed the general principles of the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill. Whilst a Financial Resolution has not yet been agreed, the Bill has proceeded to Stage 2 and as the Member in Charge of the Bill, I am currently considering possible amendments to the Bill.

As part of Stage 1 scrutiny of the Bill, the Equalities, Local Government and Communities (ELGC) Committee published its Stage 1 Report, making 19 recommendations. Recommendation 6 stated:

“We recommend that the Member in Charge brings forward amendments at Stage 2 to strengthen the Welsh language duties and responsibilities.”

I have accepted this recommendation and agreed to consult with you to consider how best this could be achieved. Currently, section 71 of the Bill requires the Ombudsman to prepare and publish a Welsh Language Strategy. It also sets out the timescale for the publication of the strategy and makes provision for any subsequent revisions deemed necessary.



I note from your response to the ELGC Committee's consultation that in your view section 71 should be amended to incorporate specific and clear requirements.

I would be grateful to hear your views on how best this can be achieved. It would be helpful to receive your advice by **Friday 29 June 2018**, to enable me to finalise my considerations of the ELGC Committee's recommendations.

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.

