



Our ref JH/3178/21

Sophie Howe
Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
commissioner@futuregenerations.wales

8 October 2021

Dear Sophie,

Response to Future Generations Report 2020

I want to thank you for your ongoing work in helping the Welsh Government implement the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 (WFG Act) in Wales. I am writing to you to conclude the Welsh Government's response to the Future Generations Report 2020. In addition to this letter, I am writing to the Auditor General for Wales on the Welsh Government's response to the Auditor's report, and the Welsh Government's response to the Public Accounts Committee's (5th Senedd) 2021 report has been published. Our response to the Committee outlines our commitments to strengthen the application of the WFG Act in Government, public bodies, and Public Services Boards. We will continue to work with you and your team on accelerating the implementation of the WFG Act over this Government term.

In this context I want to re-confirm our approach to engaging with the Future Generations Report. In October 2020, the First Minister outlined in a letter that the Welsh Government's response to the report would not be a standalone line-by-line commentary, as this would not give way for meaningful engagement in the challenges, improvements, and opportunities the report identifies. Our response situates our engagement with the report, which is published once every five years, as part of our existing action to embed and improve the implementation of the WFG Act. Ministers will continue to engage with you on portfolio matters relevant to the continued application of the WFG Act.

The Welsh Government continues to provide leadership on the WFG agenda and recognise our role as custodians of the legislation. We have brought public bodies together to discuss how we take forward our sustainable development ambitions for Wales through the Well-being of Future Generations National Stakeholder Forum and delivered several engagement events linked to the implementation of the Act.

I plan to meet members of the Forum shortly to discuss how Welsh Government will continue to provide leadership in the national implementation of the Act and how we can

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

take forward specific actions in collaboration with the forum and bring these actions together in a plan for this government term.

We have also recently published a consultation on Wales' national milestones and indicators so that we deliver on my commitment to publish the first national milestones, update the indicators, and publish the Future Trends Report by December 2021. Our work to bring the milestones, indicators and future trends together under Shaping Wales' Future provides an opportunity to engage the people of Wales in the future of Wales and improve understanding and awareness of the Act. This is an area which I expect the Forum to look at in the coming months to complement your work in promoting the WFG Act.

I am also pleased that Welsh Government will be sending participants to be part of the next cohort of the Future Generations Leadership Academy. Having met participants of the first cohort I am confident that the Academy is helping equip people across Wales with the skills, confidence and enthusiasm to champion the values and ethos of the Act. I look forward to meeting the next cohort of the Academy in the coming months.

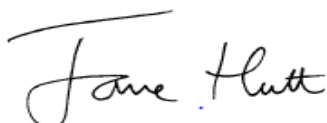
The WFG Act is driving positive changes to policies, processes and culture in organisations across Wales. We will continue to lead this agenda through our international efforts, and deliver on our well-being objective to give Wales the strongest possible presence on the world stage. The recent publication of the Elsevier report shows how Wales is contributing to the progress of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals through research. Our continued and active membership of international networks such as Regions4SD and the Wellbeing Economy Government network will ensure Wales stays at the forefront of activities to leave a positive legacy for future generations. We are grateful for your efforts in showcasing Wales' distinctive approach and making the case for others to follow our lead.

This Welsh Government has put tackling the climate and nature emergencies at the heart of everything it does. Our Programme for Government outlines the ambitious set of commitments Welsh Ministers intend to deliver over this Senedd term and ensures people in Wales can see their democratic voice reflected in our actions. Publishing our well-being objectives as part of the Programme demonstrates the central role of the WFG Act in our thinking and policymaking. The Programme also builds on the Welsh values of community, equality, and social justice to make our communities kinder, more connected, and stronger.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee.

In Wales, we have opportunity to build a stronger, fairer, greener country. The Welsh Government continues to be steadfast in its commitment to sustainable development, and I look forward to delivering on our agenda this term to create a Wales we can be proud to hand on to future generations.

Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice

Cc: First Minister, Minister for Finance & Local Government, Chair of Equality & Social Justice Committee