

SUE ESSEX AM

Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services

Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

SHORT DEBATE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF AUDITING

24 MARCH 2004

Our ref:

DP 693/03-07

Your ref:



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru

Welsh Assembly Government

Bae Caerdydd

Caerdydd CF99 1NA

Switsfwrdd: 029 2082 5111 GTN: 1208

Ffacs: 029 2089 8131

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff CF99 1NA

Switchboard: 029 2082 5111 GTN: 1208

Fax: 029 2089 8131

Jenny Randerson AM  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

10<sup>th</sup> January 2005

Dear Jenny

### Rights of whistleblowers

During the debate on your motion about the importance of auditing, on 24 March 2004, you raised with me several questions about possible action to provide greater protection for whistleblowers. These included a suggestion that I should bring forward revised guidance for Assembly sponsored public bodies, all Government agencies in Wales and local authorities, to ensure that the highest standards are observed under the current legislation.

At that time we had no framework for considering these issues on a cross-public sector basis. However "Making the Connections", the Welsh Assembly Government's vision for public services in Wales, establishes that framework and it has engagement of the workforce as one of its four main themes. Our ambition for a public sector workforce that can work in partnership to deliver better services for citizens makes it all the more important to examine where common values and standards will be important.

I have asked officials to take all of your comments and suggestions into account alongside the responses to consultation on Making the Connections. Specifically, they will need to consider the place of guidance and good management practice on whistleblowing in the strategic approach to human resources which we will be developing with our partners.

Best wishes,

Sue Essex



BUDDSODDWR AEWN POBL  
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE