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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Dear Elin,

Thank you for your letter of 8 November regarding the appointment of the chair of the Welsh Revenue Authority (WRA).

I welcome your positive response to my proposal and your view that a pre-appointment hearing for the WRA chair would be a matter for the Finance Committee.

As you note, having a pre-appointment hearing for a Ministerial appointment will be a new approach. My view is that having such a unique approach to the appointment of the WRA chair is very much in keeping with the status and governance arrangements of the WRA, which will be our first non-Ministerial Department.

In your letter, you ask about how I intend to take account of the outcome of the Committee hearing in making my final appointment decision.

I am mindful that the Finance Committee will want to consider how a pre-appointment hearing for the WRA Chair might impact upon their subsequent role in scrutinising the performance of the WRA and by extension the Chair. In the circumstances, I had seen a hearing in this case as providing an early opportunity for the Finance Committee to find out more about the preferred candidate's skills and experience, and to ask questions about the preferred candidate's priorities and approach on taking up the post. The Committee may for example wish to seek views on developing the WRA board and its governance capability. Importantly, a hearing would also provide an opportunity for the preferred candidate to understand the Assembly's expectation of the post-holder.

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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.

I mentioned in my previous letter I was looking to make early progress on the WRA chair appointment. It is my intention to advertise the opportunity shortly. I would like to mention in the appointment information pack the need for a preferred candidate to attend a pre-appointment hearing with the Finance Committee and to give an indication of the timing of this. Perhaps you and Simon Thomas could confirm whether you are both content for me to do that.

I intend to have reached a view on a preferred candidate before the end of February 2017 and therefore I would hope that a hearing could be held shortly afterwards.

I would welcome any further thoughts that you or Committee chairs might wish to offer on the pre appointment hearing for this specific appointment and would be happy to discuss the approach if you would find this helpful. In the meantime, I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,
Mark

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