



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref MA-PCS/2620/15

16 October 2015

Dear Assembly Member,

How do we measure a nation's progress?

Following the passing of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 ('the Act') by the National Assembly for Wales earlier this year, work on the implementation of the Act is progressing well. The process for appointing the new statutory Future Generations Commissioner for Wales is well underway, and last month the Minister for Public Services and I issued for consultation the statutory guidance for public bodies subject to the Act.

I now want to update Assembly Members on another key piece of the jigsaw: the *National Indicators for Wales*, which are required by Section 10 of the Act. On 19th October I will issue a consultation on the proposed indicators seeking the views of people across Wales on the measures that we need to put in place to measure our progress in achieving the seven well-being goals for Wales. This consultation is timely, as last month the 193-member United Nations General Assembly formally adopted the Sustainable Development Goals, which will also include new sets of international data, measuring progress towards a more sustainable world. In Wales, through the Act, we have a meaningful link between what we do here in Wales and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Whilst the requirement to publish national indicators is for the Welsh Ministers, the national indicators will measure progress for Wales as a whole towards the achievement of the seven well-being goals and are therefore not designed to be measures of how well a single public body is performing, or a particular service, or programme. They must, collectively tell a story of whether Wales is becoming prosperous, resilient, healthier, more equal, with cohesive communities, with vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language and globally responsible.

I want to engage people in the exercise of setting the measures we want, through the successful mechanism of *The Wales We Want*, which helped drive the development of the then Bill and which now provides a key interface with citizens and stakeholders. Earlier this year I asked the Public Policy Institute for Wales to advise me on the development of the national indicators, so that they can be meaningful and help drive the change needed under the Act. Since I received that initial advice in May, officials have been working across Government to develop a proposed list of national indicators to enable us to undertake this consultation. This work has drawn on available evidence and expertise from across the Welsh Government; it has been led by the Chief Statistician, Chief Economist and Chief Social Research Officer and has involved consulting with experts from across Government and

sponsored bodies, meetings with Commissioners, and work with officials from the Office for National Statistics.

The consultation documents and the list of the proposed national indicators will be available at <http://gov.wales/consultations/people-and-communities>.

The consultation on the draft national indicators will run until the 11th January 2016, I would welcome your views on the proposed list of indicators. It is my current intention to work towards laying the national indicators before the National Assembly for Wales in spring 2016.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading 'Carl Sargeant'.

Carl Sargeant AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cyfoeth Naturiol
Minister for Natural Resources