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