

Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Thursday, 11 March 2021

Meeting time: 12.50 – 15.25

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/11088>

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	John Griffiths MS (Chair) Dawn Bowden MS Huw Irranca-Davies MS Delyth Jewell MS Laura Anne Jones MS Mandy Jones MS
Witnesses:	Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government Hannah Blythyn MS, Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government Emma Williams, Welsh Government Reg Kilpatrick, Welsh Government Jane Hutt MS, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip Alyson Francis, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Naomi Stocks (Clerk) Catherine Hunt (Second Clerk)



	Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk) Jonathan Baxter (Researcher) Osian Bowyer (Researcher)
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1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee.
- 1.2. In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair stated that he had determined that the public were excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health.
- 1.3. The Chair stated that if for any reason he dropped out of the meeting, the Committee agreed that Dawn Bowden MS would become Temporary Chair in accordance with Standing Order 17.22.

2 Inquiry into COVID-19 and its impact on matters relating to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's remit – evidence session with the Minister for Housing and Local Government and the Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government

2.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government
- Hannah Blythyn MS, Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government
- Emma Williams, Director of Housing & Regeneration, Welsh Government
- Reg Mitchell-Kilpatrick, Director General, Covid Crisis Coordination, Welsh Government

3 Inquiry into COVID-19 and its impact on matters relating to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's remit – evidence session with the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

3.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Jane Hutt MS, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip
- Alyson Francis, Deputy Director of Communities Division, Welsh Government

4 Paper(s) to note

4.1 Letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in relation to the British-Irish Council (BIC) Joint Housing and Spatial Planning Work Sectors ministerial meeting

4.1.a The Committee noted the letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in relation to the British-Irish Council (BIC) Joint Housing and Spatial Planning Work Sectors ministerial meeting.

4.2 Letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in relation to the British-Irish Council (BIC) Digital Inclusion Work Sector ministerial meeting

4.2.a The Committee noted the letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in relation to the British-Irish Council (BIC) Digital Inclusion Work Sector ministerial meeting.

4.3 Letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in relation to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021

4.3.a The Committee noted the letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in relation to the Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021.

4.4 Written submission from the CICAIR to the inquiry into fire safety in high rise blocks in Wales (Welsh Government white paper – Safer Buildings in Wales: A Consultation)

4.4.a The Committee noted the written submission from the CICAIR to the inquiry into fire safety in high rise blocks in Wales (Welsh Government white paper – Safer Buildings in Wales: A Consultation).

4.5 Response from the Welsh Government to the Committee's report on the Welsh Government draft budget 2021–22

4.5.a The Committee noted the response from the Welsh Government to the Committee's report on the Welsh Government draft budget 2021–22.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting and from the meeting on 18 March 2021

5.1. The Committee agreed the motion.

6 Inquiry into COVID–19 and its impact on matters relating to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's remit – discussion of the evidence received

6.1. The Committee discussed the evidence received under items 2 and 3.