

## **Agenda – Equality and Social Justice Committee**

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Meeting Venue:

For further information contact:

Video Conference via Zoom

Rhys Morgan

Meeting date: 10 January 2022

Committee Clerk

Meeting time: 13.30

0300 200 6565

[SeneddEquality@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddEquality@senedd.wales)

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### **Private pre-meeting and registration**

**(13.15 – 13.30)**

#### **1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

(13.30)

#### **2 Papers to note**

(13.30)

##### **2.1 Correspondence from the Chair of the Finance Committee regarding scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022–23 – 7 December 2021**

(Pages 1 – 3)

##### **2.2 Correspondence from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee regarding the International Labour Organisation – 8 December 2021**

(Pages 4 – 5)

##### **2.3 Correspondence from the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee regarding the use of the term 'BAME' – 10 December 2022**

(Pages 6 – 7)

##### **2.4 Correspondence from the Chair of the Health and Social Care Committee regarding inquiry into mental health inequality – 14 December 2021**

(Pages 8 – 10)



- 2.5 Correspondence from the Chair of Policing in Wales regarding alleged illegal evictions – 14 December 2021**  
(Pages 11 – 12)
- 2.6 Correspondence from the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee regarding the Warm Homes Programme – 14 December 2021**  
(Page 13)
- 2.7 Correspondence from Dominic Raab MP, Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice regarding reform of the Human Rights Act – 17 December 2021**  
(Pages 14 – 15)
- 3 Motion under SO17.42 (iv) and (ix) to exclude the public from the remainder of today's meeting**  
(13.35)
- 4 Draft Budget 2022–23: preparing for budget scrutiny**  
(13.35 – 14.35) (Page 16)  
Hannah Johnson, Knowledge Exchange and Engagement Manager, Senedd Research
- 5 Draft Budget 2022–23: consideration of evidence and engagement work**  
(14.35 – 14.50) (Pages 17 – 39)  
Catherine McKeag, Citizen Engagement Manager, Senedd Cymru  
Owain Davies, Senedd Research
- 6 International agreements: update from officials**  
(14.50 – 15.00) (Pages 40 – 44)  
Sara Moran, Senedd Research
- Break (15.00 – 15.15)**

**7 Childcare and parental employment: consideration of draft report**  
(15.15 – 16.30) (Pages 45 – 102)

Chair, Children, Young People, and Education  
Committee  
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee  
Chair, Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee  
Chair, Climate Change, Environment, and  
Infrastructure Committee  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,  
Sport, and International Relations Committee  
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee  
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

07 December 2021

Dear Committee Chairs

## Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022-23

On 16 July 2021, I wrote to you to share the Finance Committee's thinking in relation to our programme of engagement for the forthcoming Welsh Government's Draft Budget and our approach to scrutiny. I am now writing to provide an update on this work.

### Engagement

Between 17 September and 26 November 2021, the Finance Committee undertook a consultation seeking information on the Draft Budget on behalf of all Committees. The consultation responses are available on the Finance Committee webpage.

In addition, a series of focus groups were held to gather the views and experiences of citizens of Wales who are service users within particular fields or impacted directly by draft budget decisions.



A report summarising the key themes and issues from these focus groups will be available mid-December and the link will be circulated to your Committee clerks.

## Budget focus

It is likely that the 2022-23 Draft Budget will continue to be impacted by the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic. In addition, the Finance Committee has identified a number of areas which we would like to see the focus of scrutiny, these are:

- *how resources should be targeted to support economic recovery and what sectors in particular need to be prioritised;*
- *to what extent alleviating climate change should be prioritised in supporting economic recovery;*
- *how budget allocations support aspirations of the Net Zero Wales plan;*
- *Welsh Government policies to reduce poverty and gender inequality;*
- *approach to preventative spending and how is this represented in resource allocations (preventative spending = spending which focuses on preventing problems and eases future demand on services by intervening early);*
- *sustainability of public services, innovation and service transformation;*
- *how evidence is driving Welsh Government priority setting and budget allocations;*
- *how the Welsh Government should use taxation powers and borrowing;*
- *support for businesses, economic growth and agriculture post-EU transition;*
- *what are the key opportunities for Government investment to support 'building back better' (i.e. supporting an economy and public services that better deliver against the well-being goals in the Well-being of Future Generations Act).*

We hope that the consultation and engagement work will complement and inform the work of policy Committees and I would encourage you to use some of the areas outlined above as the focus for your budget scrutiny.

If you have any questions about any aspect of the Draft Budget process, please feel free to contact me or the Clerk to the Finance Committee, Owain Roberts, 0300 200 6388, [seneddfinance@senedd.wales](mailto:seneddfinance@senedd.wales).



Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths', written in a cursive style.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS  
Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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**Legislation, Justice and  
Constitution Committee**

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—  
**Welsh Parliament**  
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Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

8 December 2021

Dear Jenny

International Labour Organisation: Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190)

You will be aware that the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

At our meeting on 29 November 2021 we considered the International Labour Organisation: Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190). The objective of the Convention is to eliminate violence and harassment in the world of work.

During our consideration we agreed to draw the Convention to the attention of the Equality and Social Justice Committee given the Committee's remit.

Yours sincerely,

*Huw Irranca-Davies*

Huw Irranca-Davies  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

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**Public Accounts and Public  
Administration Committee**

Manon Antoniazzi  
Chief Executive and Clerk  
Senedd Commission

10 December 2021

Dear Manon

**Use of the term BAME**

During the Committee's consideration of its draft report, Scrutiny of Accounts: Senedd Commission 2020-21, there were a number of references to the acronym BAME. One Member asked that this not be used as citizens who represent this community, feel it is offensive. The Committee Members were in full agreement and where the term had been used in the narrative rather than a direct quote from a publication or the Record of Proceedings, it was amended to read 'ethnic minority communities'. I am sure you will have seen this phrase in our recently published report.

The Committee asked that I write to you requesting that the Senedd Commission stops using the term BAME. The Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities produced an independent Report in April 2021 for the UK Government to investigate race and ethnic disparities in the UK. One of the areas considered, was the use of the terms BAME and BME, and in March 2021, the Commission on Race and Ethnic Disparities recommended that the UK government stop using the term BAME. The UK government is currently considering its response to the Commission's Report.

The Committee would welcome the Senedd Commission's views on this request once it has been fully considered.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

**Senedd Cymru**

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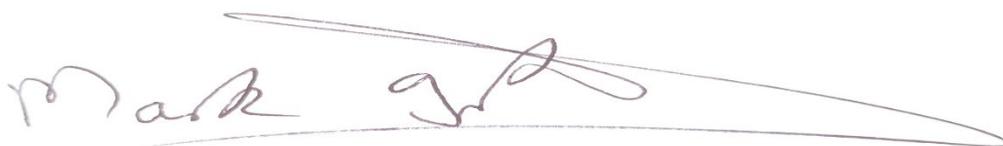
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0300 200 6565

I am copying this letter to all Committee chairs requesting that consideration be given to not using the term BAME in any committee correspondence and publications.

Thank you

Regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Isherwood', written over a horizontal line.

Mark Isherwood MS  
Committee Chair

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**Health and Social Care  
Committee**

Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair, Children, Young People and Education  
Committee

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

14 December 2021

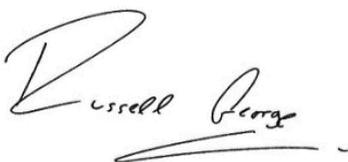
Dear Jayne and Jenny

**Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into mental health inequalities**

At our meeting on 2 December 2021, the Health and Social Care Committee agreed to launch an inquiry into mental health inequalities early in the new year. As this inquiry may be of interest to your Committees, I am writing to share our terms of reference and an overview of how we will approach this work. I would be grateful if you could treat this information in confidence until the inquiry has been launched.

To help identify opportunities for cross-committee working in areas of mutual interest, I have also asked my clerk to ensure that your clerks are kept informed as the inquiry develops, for example by sharing key dates and information such as summaries of written evidence and details of our plans for oral evidence and engagement activity as they emerge.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS

Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

# Health and Social Care Committee inquiry into mental health inequalities

## Background

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The [Centre for Mental Health](#) describes a 'triple barrier' of mental health inequality, which affects large numbers of people from different sections of the population:

- Some groups of people are disproportionately at risk of poor mental health. This is often linked to wider inequalities in society.
- Groups with particularly high levels of poor mental health can have the most difficulty accessing services.
- When people do get support, their experiences and outcomes are often poorer.

These inequalities existed before the COVID-19 pandemic, but the pandemic has made them worse.

Research suggests that groups particularly affected by mental health inequalities include: older people; autistic people ; people living in poverty; Black adults; LGBT+ people; deaf people; children and young people with a learning disability; and people experiencing severe and enduring mental illness. Research also suggests that gender has an impact on an individual's mental health risk, and that there are gender differences in the ways that mental health distress manifests itself.

## Terms of reference

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Our inquiry will consider, in particular:

- Which groups of people are disproportionately affected by poor mental health in Wales? What factors contribute to worse mental health within these groups?
- For the groups identified, what are the barriers to accessing mental health services? How effectively can existing services meet their needs, and how could their experience of using mental health services be improved?
- To what extent does Welsh Government policy recognise and address the mental health needs of these groups? Where are the policy gaps?
- What further action is needed, by whom/where, to improve mental health and outcomes for the groups of people identified and reduce mental health inequalities in Wales?

We plan to take a multi-phase approach to gathering evidence:

- **Phase 1 evidence gathering:** in January and February we will hold an open call for written evidence, supplemented by engagement work to promote the inquiry and the potential for people to provide written evidence and a series of focus groups to ensure that we hear from groups who are particularly likely to experience mental health inequalities, but who may be less likely to submit written evidence.
- **Analysis of phase 1 evidence:** in March we plan to hold 'scene-setting' oral evidence sessions with organisations who have done extensive work in respect of mental health inequalities. We will use these sessions and the evidence gathered during phase 1 to identify who we need to hear from during phase 2, and what methods of hearing from them would be most suitable (for example formal oral evidence or further engagement activity).
- **Phase 2 evidence gathering:** during the summer term we will hear formal oral evidence or undertake engagement activity as required to enable us to hear directly from people with relevant lived experience and expertise. We also intend to seek a written update from the Welsh Government on progress made on key recommendations made by Fifth Senedd committees in respect of mental health. We would be keen to coordinate with the Children, Young People and Education Committee on this.
- **Ministerial evidence:** early in the autumn term, we plan to invite the Deputy Minister for Mental Health and Wellbeing to a Ministerial evidence session, drawing on all of the evidence gathered throughout our inquiry.

# Agenda Item 2.5



Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1SN

[SeneddEquality@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddEquality@senedd.wales)

14<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Jenny

## **Debt and the Pandemic – Alleged Illegal Evictions**

We write on behalf of Policing in Wales in response to your letter to all Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners of November 24<sup>th</sup> in relation to the above.

Like you, Policing in Wales was concerned to hear about the allegations put forward by Shelter Cymru, but it is important that we provide some context to how this issue has emerged and how Policing in Wales has responded.

Shelter Cymru wrote to Chief Constables and Commissioners in September with some limited information around alleged police involvement in illegal evictions during the course of the pandemic. An urgent request was made to Shelter Cymru to provide some further information on the back of the initial disclosure by their case workers. This was followed up by a further request in early October, but Shelter responded by saying that they were unable to provide additional details at that point due to staffing shortages. Some limited additional information was received on October 19<sup>th</sup> 2021, but this was not sufficient to enable investigation of specific cases or allegations.

The matter was subsequently raised at the November meeting of your committee and attracted some media interest. Policing in Wales was disappointed that further engagement had not taken place prior to the evidence provided to the Committee. On the back of this, a meeting was arranged between the Chief Executive of Shelter Cymru and Chief Constable Pam Kelly, Chair of the Welsh Chief Officers Group on October 29<sup>th</sup>.

During that meeting, the previous positive working relationships between Policing in Wales and Shelter Cymru were highlighted, but real disappointment was expressed in the way that the allegations made to your committee had surfaced. Policing in Wales awaited further information

around the allegations made and stood ready to work with Shelter Cymru to respond positively to the concerns outlined.

In the meeting, the Chief Executive of Shelter Cymru stressed that it had never been the intention to take the issue to your committee without proper engagement with policing colleagues, but she accepted that this was how it could be interpreted. Over the past 18 months, officers across Wales have been required to deal with relentless changes to laws and regulations in response to the Covid pandemic and many of the examples highlighted by case workers can be ascribed to misunderstanding and misinterpretation. However, there are other cases where there is a clear opportunity for learning. On this basis, two courses of action were agreed:

- Shelter Cymru would develop a brief aide memoire document setting out the rights of tenants and a basic overview of housing law in this area, ensuring that police officers across Wales do not become involved in illegal evictions. This aide memoire will be made available to front line officers and staff in force control rooms
- Quarterly meetings would take place between the Police Liaison Unit (PLU) and officers from Shelter Cymru to identify and deal with emerging issues. The PLU represents the four Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners in their engagement with Welsh Government and are well placed to work with Shelter Cymru on any concerns they identify. PLU staff have made themselves available in between these quarterly meetings should anything more urgent arise

Please be assured that Policing in Wales takes any allegations of this nature extremely seriously and is committed to working with Government and partners to address them on a partnership basis.

Yours sincerely



**Pam Kelly**  
**Chief Constable, Gwent Police**  
**Chair of Welsh Chief Officers Group**



**Dafydd Llywelyn**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed Powys**  
**Chair of Policing in Wales**

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair – Equality and Social Justice Committee

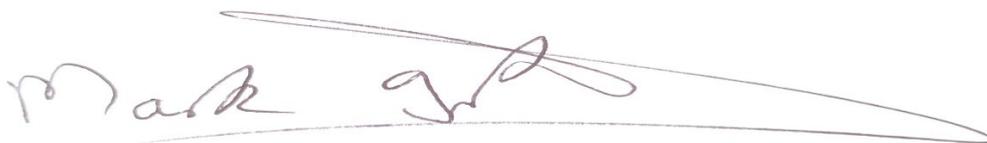
14 December 2021

Dear Jenny

### The Welsh Government's Warm Homes Programme

During the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee's meeting of 1 December 2021, the Committee received a briefing from Audit Wales on the Welsh Government's Warm Homes Programme, following their recent report on the matter. While the Committee Members indicated a keen interest on this topic, they were made aware of the Equality and Social Justice Committee's inquiry into Fuel Poverty, which will likely draw on the findings of the report. In light of this, the PAPA Committee Members have agreed to await the outcome of your Committee's work, and, if appropriate, would be interested in working collaboratively on this matter in the future, in particular in any areas that fall closely within PAPAC's remit.

Regards



Mark Isherwood MS  
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

# Agenda Item 2.7

Ministry  
of Justice

The Right Honourable  
**Dominic Raab MP**  
Deputy Prime Minister  
Lord Chancellor & Secretary of  
State for Justice

## OFFICIAL

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair of Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

MoJ ref: MC 92781

16 December 2021

Dear Jenny,

### A CONSULTATION TO REFORM THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1998

I am pleased to confirm that on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, the Government launched a consultation on proposals to reform the Human Rights Act 1998 and to legislate for a Bill of Rights. I wanted to share with you the options on which we are consulting as I recognise you have a strong interest in this area. The consultation is publicly accessible here: <https://consult.justice.gov.uk/human-rights/human-rights-act-reform>.

The UK's tradition of human rights and civil liberties stretches back over the centuries. There are many international instruments and treaties on human rights, first and foremost amongst these was the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights shortly followed by the European Convention on Human Rights (the Convention). The Human Rights Act 1998 embedded the rights within the Convention within UK domestic law. Over the years there has been mission creep which has resulted in human rights law being used for more and more purposes, including at the expense of the interests of wider society.

The Government is committed to protecting and respecting human rights and has a longstanding tradition of ensuring rights and liberties are protected domestically, and of fulfilling our international human rights obligations. The UK is also committed to membership of the European Convention on Human Rights. However, reforms are needed to ensure that the Human Rights Act meets the needs of the society it serves and commands public support.

The revised legislation, renamed the Bill of Rights, will make sure a proper balance is struck between individuals' rights, personal responsibility and the wider public interest. It will strengthen the role of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom in the exercise of the judicial function, preserve Parliament's democratic prerogatives in the exercise of the legislative function, and support the integrity of the UK while respecting the devolution settlements. The Government also wants to make sure the Bill of Rights fully reflects the different interests and legal systems in different parts of the UK; we are continuing to engage stakeholders in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as to how that can be achieved.

The consultation will last for 12 weeks, and during this period, the Government is seeking views on the key aspects of these reforms and the proposals set out in full in the consultation document. After we have received and considered the responses, we will in due course put forward legislative proposals to Parliament to revise the Human Rights Act and replace it with a Bill of Rights.

The Independent Human Rights Act Review (IHRAR) panel's report was also published on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 2021, alongside the consultation document. The report is publicly available online here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/independent-human-rights-act-review>. Chaired by Sir Peter Gross, IHRAR was launched in December 2020, and was set up to examine the framework of the Human Rights Act, how it is operating in practice and whether any change is required. We welcome this report and will carefully consider its findings as we take forward reform of the Human Rights Act.

If you would like to discuss our proposals further, Lord Wolfson or I will be available to meet with you during and after the consultation period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dominic Raab', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**RT HON DOMINIC RAAB MP**

# Agenda Item 4

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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# Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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