

# Concise Minutes – Equality and Social Justice Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 (Senedd)

Meeting date: Monday, 2 March 2026

Meeting time: 10.00 – 12.35

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/15837>

## Hybrid

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### Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	Jenny Rathbone MS (Chair) Jane Dodds MS Altaf Hussain MS Julie Morgan MS Sioned Williams MS
Witnesses:	Andrew Charles, Welsh Government Mike Connolly, UK Government Claire Germain, Welsh Government Lorna Hall, Deputy Director for Equality and Human Rights, Welsh Government Jane Hutt MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip Amelia John, Welsh Government Ian Jones, Welsh Government Keith Smyton, Welsh Government Riaz Hassan, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Mared Llwyd (Second Clerk)



	Angharad Roche (Deputy Clerk) Gareth Thomas (Research)
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## **1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting.

Apologies were received from Mick Antoniw, MS.

No substitutions nor declarations of interest were made.

## **2 Access to healthy, nutritious and affordable food: evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip**

Members heard evidence from:

Jane Hutt, MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Claire Germain, Deputy Director, Tackling Poverty & Supporting Families, Welsh Government

Keith Smyton, Deputy Director, Food, Welsh Government

## **3 General Ministerial scrutiny: session with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip**

Members heard evidence from:

Jane Hutt, MS, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Amelia John, Director, Communities & Social Justice, Welsh Government

Andrew Charles, Deputy Director, Cohesive Communities, Welsh Government

Ian Jones, Deputy Director, Equality, Poverty & Children's Evidence and Support, Welsh Government

Lorna Hall, Deputy Director, Equality & Human Rights, Welsh Government

Claire Germain, Deputy Director, Tackling Poverty & Supporting Families, Welsh Government

Mike Connolly, Deputy Director, Community Safety Division, Welsh Government

Riaz Hassan, Head of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan, Welsh Government

#### **4 Papers to note**

Members noted the papers.

- 4.1 Correspondence to the Chair from Cadoxton Primary School regarding "Ready, Steady, Cook – Family Healthy Cooking Programme"**
  - 4.2 Correspondence to the Chair from NHS Wales Dieticians regarding the Access to healthy, nutritious and affordable food inquiry**
  - 4.3 Correspondence to the Chair from Colegau Cymru regarding Welsh Colleges new approach to recognising prior learning**
  - 4.4 Correspondence to the Chair from Fishguard Bay Sustainable Food regarding the access to healthy, nutritious and affordable food inquiry**
  - 4.5 Correspondence to the Chair from Michelle Crotty of the Judicial Office regarding experiences of the Criminal Justice System**
  - 4.6 Correspondence to the Chair from the Magistrates Association regarding the increase in women in Wales remanded in custody by magistrates' courts**
  - 4.7 Correspondence to the Chair from the Future Generations Commissioner regarding the Welsh Government's response to the recommendations of the Future Generations Report 2025**
- #### **5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public for the remainder of today's meeting**

Members agreed the motion.

**6 Access to healthy, nutritious and affordable food: evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip – consideration of the evidence**

Members considered the evidence and it was agreed that a short report would be published outlining the Committees findings in this inquiry.

**7 General Ministerial scrutiny session with the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip – consideration of the evidence**

Members considered the evidence and it was agreed that the session would be referenced in the Committee's impending legacy report which will note the work completed by the Committee in the Sixth Senedd.