

# Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

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Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 2 – Senedd**

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Meeting date: **Thursday, 6 February 2014**

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Meeting time: **08:50 – 12:30**

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This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



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## Concise Minutes:

### Assembly Members:

**Christine Chapman (Chair)**  
**Leighton Andrews**  
**Peter Black**  
**Mike Hedges**  
**Mark Isherwood**  
**Gwyn R Price**  
**Jenny Rathbone**

### Witnesses:

**Carl Sargeant, Minister for Housing and Regeneration**  
**Ceri Breeze, Head of Housing Directorate, Welsh Government**  
**Kath Palmer, Welsh Government**  
**Geoff Marlow, Welsh Government**  
**Jen Welsby, Welsh Government**  
**John Davies, Legal Services, Welsh Government**  
**Chrishan Kamalan, Welsh Government**  
**Margaret Frith, Welsh Government**  
**Patricia Gavigan, Welsh Government**  
**Piers Bisson, Public Service Reform Division**  
**Robin Jones, Welsh Government, Bill Manager**

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## TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

### 1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public.

1.2 Apologies for absence received from Rhodri Glyn Thomas, Jocelyn Davies and Janet Finch-Saunders.

### 2 Housing (Wales) Bill: Stage 1 Evidence Session 10 – Minister for Housing and Regeneration

2.1 The Committee received evidence from Carl Sargeant, Minister for Housing and Regeneration

2.2 The Minister agreed to provide the following:

- whether provisions could be included in the Bill to allow data sharing between relevant authorities and/or departments to help identify landlords within the private rented sector, and to help identify Housing Benefit fraud,
- what further action can be taken to improve safety standards within the private rented sector, in particular electrical and gas safety, accepting the limitations of the Assembly's legislative competence in regard to health and safety, and how you intend to take this forward in the longer term,
- existing requirements in relation to support available to prisoners before, and on release from, prison to help address their housing needs, and the extent to which these are being met,
- in relation to the above, any areas for improvement identified by the Prisoner Accommodation Resettlement Working Group how the Bill will contribute towards the delivery of these, and
- details on the new social housing rent policy, how it links in with existing the Housing Benefit Account Subsidy system, whether guidance on rent setting will be statutory and how it will be enforced.

**3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting**

**4 Discussion of Evidence from the Minister for Housing and Regeneration on the Housing (Wales) Bill**

4.1 The Committee discussed evidence received from the Minister for Housing and Regeneration on the Bill.

**5 Technical Briefing: Draft Public Services (Workforce) (Wales) Bill**

5.1 The Committee received a technical briefing on the draft Bill.

**6 Consideration of Report: Inquiry into participation levels in sport**

6.1 The Committee discussed the draft report.

**7 Consideration of the appointment process of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales**

7.1 The Committee discussed the appointment process of the public Services Ombudsman for Wales.

**8 Consideration of letter from the Minister for Housing and Regeneration on the Inquiry into barriers to home building in Wales**

8.1 The Committee considered the letter from the minister for Housing and Regeneration on the inquiry into barriers to home building in Wales.

**9 Papers to note**

9.1 Papers to note.