

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

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

Meeting date: **Thursday, 30 April 2015**

Meeting time: **09.01 – 12.00**

This meeting can be viewed on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/2960>

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



Concise Minutes:

MeetingTitle

Assembly Members:

Christine Chapman AM (Chair)
Peter Black AM
Alun Davies AM
Jocelyn Davies AM
Janet Finch-Saunders AM
John Griffiths AM
Mike Hedges AM
Gwyn R Price AM
Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM

Witnesses:

Jane Plant, Law Society
Rhiannon Price, Law Society
Liz Silversmith, Let Down in Wales
Steve Clarke, Welsh Tenants Federation
Beth Button, NUS Cymru

Committee Staff:

Sarah Beasley (Clerk)
Claire Morris (Second Clerk)
Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk)
Sarah Sargent (Deputy Clerk)
Helen Roberts (Legal Adviser)
Jonathan Baxter (Researcher)

David Smith (Expert Adviser)
Hannah Johnson (Researcher)
Robin Wilkinson (Researcher)

TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

1 Introduction, apologies and substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public to the meeting.

1.2 Apologies of Absence were received from Mark Isherwood AM and Gwenda Thomas AM. John Griffiths AM substituted for Gwenda Thomas AM in accordance with Standing order 17.48.

1.3 Alun Davies AM and Janet Finch-Saunders AM declared interests as landlords in the private rented sector.

2 Renting Homes (Wales) Bill: Evidence session 2 – Law Society

2.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Jane Plant, Chair of the Housing Law Committee, Law Society
- Rhiannon Price, member of the Housing Law Committee, Law Society
- The Law Society agreed to provide additional information on the feasibility of expanding the Residential Property Tribunal in Wales to settle disputes that arise under the Bill, rather than relying on the courts.

3 Renting Homes (Wales) Bill: Evidence session 3 – Let Down in Wales, National Union of Students Wales, Welsh Tenants

3.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Liz Silversmith, Let Down in Wales
- Steve Clark, Welsh Tenants
- Beth Button, President, NUS Wales

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting (discussion of the evidence received under items 2 and 3, consideration of the consultation on a Private Rented Sector Code of Practice for Landlords and Agents, consideration of the

draft report on the inquiry into Poverty in Wales strand 1, and consideration of the approach to scrutiny of the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill)

4.1 The Committee agreed the motion

5 Renting Homes (Wales) Bill: discussion of evidence received in sessions 2 and 3

5.1 The Committee discussed the evidence received in sessions 2 and 3.

6 Consideration of the consultation on a Private Renting Sector Code of Practice for Landlords and Agents

6.1 The Committee considered the Welsh Government's consultation on a Private Renting Sector Code of Practice for Landlords and Agents and agreed to look into the matter further.

7 Inquiry into Poverty in Wales Strand 1: consideration of draft report

7.1 The Committee considered the draft report.

8 Historic Environment (Wales) Bill: Consideration of the Committee's approach to scrutiny

8.1 The Committee considered its approach to scrutiny of the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill, subject to the Bill being introduced.