

# Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: Thursday, 25 January  
2018

Meeting time: 08.59 – 14.18

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/4585>

## Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	<p>John Griffiths AM (Chair)</p> <p>Mick Antoniw AM</p> <p>Gareth Bennett AM</p> <p>Janet Finch–Saunders AM</p> <p>Siân Gwenllïan AM</p> <p>Bethan Sayed AM</p> <p>Rhianon Passmore AM</p> <p>Jenny Rathbone AM</p>
Witnesses:	<p>Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport</p> <p>Eluned Morgan AM, Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning</p> <p>Marcella Maxwell, Welsh Government</p> <p>Maureen Howell, Welsh Government</p> <p>Dr Rachel Garside–Jones, Skills Policy &amp; Youth Engagement</p>



	Division (Welsh Government) Simon Thomas AM Gareth Howells Joanne McCarthy, Research Service
Committee Staff:	Naomi Stocks (Clerk) Elizabeth Wilkinson (Second Clerk) Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk) Osian Bowyer (Researcher) Hannah Johnson (Researcher) Megan Jones (Researcher) Jennifer Cottle (Legal Adviser) Stephen Davies (Legal Adviser)

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

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

1.2 Apologies for absence were received from Rhianon Passmore AM.

## **2 Inquiry into poverty in Wales: making the economy work for people on low incomes – evidence session 11**

2.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Ken Skates AM, Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport
- Eluned Morgan AM, Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning
- Marcella Maxwell, Deputy Director for Organisational Development & Change Programme, Welsh Government
- Maureen Howell, Deputy Director, Equality and Prosperity, Welsh Government
- Rachel Garside-Jones, Acting Deputy Director, Skills, Employability and EU Funding, Welsh Government

2.2 During the session the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Transport agreed to provide a note on:

- the activity across Welsh Government in its approach to securing commitments from employers in return for sectoral support;
- the role of women in households receiving Universal Credit, following consultation with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and the Minister for Housing and Regeneration.

### **3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from items 4, 8, 9 and 10 of the meeting**

3.1 The Committee agreed the motion.

### **4 Inquiry into poverty in Wales: making the economy work for people on low incomes – discussion of evidence received under item 2**

2.1 The Committee discussed the evidence received evidence under item 2.

### **5 Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill: evidence session 11 – financial scrutiny**

5.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Simon Thomas AM, Member in Charge
- Gareth Howells, Legal Services, Assembly Commission
- Joanne McCarthy, Research Service, Assembly Commission

5.2 The Member in Charge agreed to provide a note on his views on the Expert Adviser report.

### **6 Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill: evidence session 12 – scrutiny of general principles**

6.1 The Committee received evidence from:

- Simon Thomas AM, Member in Charge

- Gareth Howells, Legal Services, Assembly Commission
- Joanne McCarthy, Research Service, Assembly Commission

6.2 The Committee agreed to write to the Member in Charge in relation to how the criteria on “Extended investigations” could be clarified.

## **7 Paper(s) to note**

### **7.1 Letter from Simon Thomas AM in relation to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill**

7.1.a The Committee noted the letter from Simon Thomas AM in relation to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill.

### **7.2 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance in relation to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill**

7.2.a The Committee noted the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance in relation to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill.

### **7.3 Additional information from Citizens Advice Bureau in relation to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill**

7.3.a The Committee noted the additional information from Citizens Advice Bureau in relation to the Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill.

### **7.4 Response from the Welsh Government to the report on the draft budget 2018–19**

7.4.a The Committee noted the response from the Welsh Government to the report on the draft budget 2018–19.

## **8 Public Services Ombudsman (Wales) Bill: consideration of key issues**

8.1 The Committee discussed the key issues ahead of drafting the report.

## **9 Consideration of the draft report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum: Financial Guidance and Claims Bill**

9.1 The Committee discussed and agreed the draft report on the Legislative Consent Memorandum: Financial Guidance and Claims Bill.

## **10 Inquiry into pregnancy, maternity and work in Wales: consideration of scope and approach**

10.1 The Committee discussed and agreed its terms of reference and approach to the inquiry.