

Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

29 April 2020

Dear Colleague

Scrutiny of COVID-19 and its impact

The Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee is undertaking an inquiry into **COVID-19** and its impact.

Terms of reference

We are exploring the impact of coronavirus on areas within our remit. We want to take a flexible approach to our scrutiny, so we can respond to the issues raised with us whilst taking account of the ever-changing situation.

We are keen to hear from stakeholders and anyone with views or experience. We do not expect detailed or lengthy evidence papers – a short email about your views on, and experiences of, the impact of the pandemic is more than enough. We will get in touch with you directly if there's anything we want to understand more fully.

As well as gathering public views, we plan to collect evidence in other ways. Mindful of the pressures facing public services, we will undertake our scrutiny as proportionately and responsibly as possible, and use other evidence-gathering methods where appropriate. As well as gathering public views, we plan to undertake evidence sessions with relevant Ministers.

We are keen to know of where there are specific or unequal impacts on people because of their gender, age, disability, ethnicity, socio-economic or other status. We are conscious of the evidence that suggests there is a disproportionate impact of coronavirus on 'black,



Asian, and minority ethnic communities, and welcome further information on this. We would also like to hear about the experiences of particularly vulnerable groups such as homeless people, low income households, renters, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, pregnant women and people at risk from domestic abuse and sexual violence.

We are particularly interested in the impact of coronavirus, and the response to it, on the following areas, and any other areas within our remit to which you wish to draw to our attention —

- Local government;
- Housing;
- Equalities;
- Tackling poverty;
- Human rights; and
- Any other issues within the committee's portfolio.

We particularly welcome suggestions for changes and improvements in both the short and long term in managing the pandemic.

Given current circumstances there is no fixed deadline by which to submit your views – we asked you to share them with us as soon as you're able so that we can follow things up in as timely a way as possible.

How to send us your thoughts: You can submit your views by emailing SeneddCommunities@senedd.wales

How we use your information: As a matter of course we publish all views we receive.

For individuals submitting in a private capacity, we anonymise views before they are published. The names and roles of those submitting in a professional capacity will be published, as will the names of organisations submitting information. We may remove personal data from the published version of your evidence if we consider that it could be used to identify you or a third party personally; and/or we agree to do so in response to a request by you.

Before accepting material from those aged 13 or under, we require authorisation from the young person's parent or guardian. This may be provided in the form of an email from the young person's parent or guardian.

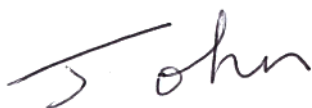


Please ensure that you have considered our policy on disclosure of information before sending information to us, and feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Language: We work in two official languages, Welsh and English. You can submit in either (or both if your organisation's standards or schemes require you to do so), in line with our Official Languages Scheme. We will publish in the language submitted, stating that it has been received in that language only.

Individual cases: While all views submitted will help our thematic scrutiny of Covid-19 and its impact, we are unable to advise on—or take up—individual cases. However, your local representatives will be able to assist you and you can find their details on our website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

John Griffiths AM

Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

From 6 May 2020 the Assembly will become the Welsh Parliament, commonly known as the Senedd. [Find out more.](#)

