

John Griffiths MS
Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

15 October 2020

Dear Chair,

Re: Evidence session with the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip, 12 October 2020

I hope that you and your family are keeping well during these challenging times.

Following your evidence session with the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip, I thought it would be helpful to restate my position regarding the Welsh Government's *Covid-19 Reconstruction: Challenges and Priorities* report published last week.

There are elements of the report which I believe will be beneficial to older people and reflect some of the issues I discussed with the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition in a meeting in June and which are set out in my [Leave No-one Behind: Action for an age-friendly recovery](#) report, which was published in August.

However, as stated in my [response](#) to the report, I was shocked and disappointed that the report did not explicitly recognise older people as a group that has been disproportionately impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic, nor recognise their important contributions to Welsh society, our economy, and older people's crucial role in Wales' recovery and future.

I have written to the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition to outline my concerns and have requested a meeting to constructively discuss the action needed to ensure that every generation feels recognised and valued and older people can be full participants in Wales' reconstruction and recovery.

I am aware that Age Cymru and the leaders of Wales' national older people's organisations have raised similar concerns, and have also written to the Counsel General and Minister for European Transition.

If you require any further information, or if I can assist the Committee in your inquiries any further, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

I have copied this letter to the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip, Counsel General and Minister for European Transition, and the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services for their information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Heléna Herklots'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Heléna Herklots CBE
Older People's Commissioner for Wales

CC:

Jane Hutt, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

Jeremy Miles, Counsel General and Minister for European Transition

Julie Morgan, Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services