

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

26 January 2021

Dear John,

Following my appearance at the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee on 21 January in which you scrutinised the 2021-22 Draft Budget, I agreed to provide additional information to explain how the findings of the First Minister's BAME Advisory Group, particularly the report of Professor Ogbonna, informed decisions about budget allocations.

Professor Ogbonna's report on the socio-economic impacts on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people identified a series of recommendations. We are currently co-constructing a Race Equality Action Plan for Wales which will take into account these recommendations. Professor Ogbonna is co-chairing a Steering Group to oversee this work. The plan will provide the foundation to bring about systemic and sustainable change for Wales and will be published for consultation in March.

The Minister for Finance and Trefnydd also met with Professor Ogbonna in the Autumn to hear about the findings from his work.

The 2021-22 Draft Budget includes a specific allocation of £1.1m for Equality and some of this additional funding will be used to take forward actions in the Race Equality Action Plan, to start to address the differential impacts of the pandemic on people in Wales. Some work has already begun, for example scoping the possible role and functions of a Race Disparity Unit.

The 2021-22 Draft Budget also includes other allocations which attempt to redress racial inequalities, such as £0.6m to support a range of actions to better reflect Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic history in our cultural sector. This will start to help redress some of the

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

structural inequalities in Welsh society by improving cultural representation in public spaces and building a more informed relationship with our history.

Representation and leadership is a key theme emerging in our Race Equality Action Plan; a further £100k has been allocated to improve diversity and inclusion in public appointments. The Education budget also includes an extra £1m for the Minority Ethnic and Gypsy Roma Traveller Grant bringing total funding to £11m. This will continue to support improved outcomes for children from ethnic minority and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller backgrounds, who we know have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic.

It is important to reflect that, as demonstrated by the recent work my officials have taken to help shape the Race Equality Action Plan, creating sustainable changes to address structural racial inequalities will need to be driven by the way we deliver our public services, across the whole of Welsh Government, and not solely about what we spend on them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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Copied to Minister for Finance and Trefnydd