

Paul Davies MS

Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

10 August 2021

Dear Paul,

Joint working between committees in the Sixth Senedd

As the Senedd committee responsible for scrutinising all aspects of equality, social justice, and the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, our broad remit includes a number of important cross-cutting issues of mutual interest and potential joint working.

I would like to invite you to consider opportunities for joint working as part of any strategic planning discussions you may be having in your Committee in the autumn term.

Early work on debt and women in the workplace

I want to make you aware that the Committee has agreed to conduct a short inquiry on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on levels of indebtedness in Wales. This work is currently at the scoping stage but is likely to look at how the pandemic has exacerbated existing trends in housing, consumer and personal debt, and the ability of public services to respond on behalf of those who may be struggling financially.

The Committee has also agreed to scope out work looking at the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on women in the workplace. The negative impacts of the pandemic have fallen disproportionately on women, particularly working women with caring responsibilities. This short inquiry is likely to look at the strategic importance of childcare on productivity levels, as well as how government and employers may respond to ensure equality and fairness as we recover from the pandemic.

We will be giving further consideration to these areas of work in the autumn and I would be happy to provide you with more information as these plans develop. If your Committee has any ideas for joint working you would like to discuss, please contact the clerking team.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow background. The signature reads "Jenny Rathbone" in a cursive script.

Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.