

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1176
Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/10314/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

17 August 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 22 July regarding the petition asking the Welsh Government to introduce a Dignity Charter of Cymru.

This would be a cross government initiative covering areas such as health, social care and wellbeing as well as equality and nation of sanctuary, and could be something worth exploring further.

Considerable work is already underway across Government and our ambition for the future is a Wales where everyone is included and no-one is held back or left behind. Only then will we live in a truly fair and equal Wales. With that in mind, the Strengthening and Advancing Equality and Human Rights in Wales Research report, which is due to be published shortly, will help inform the Welsh Government's future work in relation to safeguarding and promoting equality and human rights of individuals and communities in Wales.

The voting franchise in Wales has recently been extended to allow 16 and 17 year olds to vote in Senedd and local government elections. We are supporting the extension of the franchise by providing education resources. These resources aim to inspire young people to discuss and debate what they care about, and make the connection between this and politics. The resources will increase young people's understanding of politics at a local and national level, of the political institutions that serve them and how they interact with each other.

Officials have worked closely with WJEC to produce a teaching and learning resource pack for KS4 Welsh Baccalaureate students as part of the Global Citizenship Challenge. We are

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

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.

also working on developing professional learning resources to support teachers to deliver political education. This approach supports the delivery of political education in schools in line with the principles of the new curriculum. The new curriculum, through the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, aims to give learners an understanding of historical, geographical, political, economic and societal issues and provides opportunities to develop and engage in informed discussions about ethics, beliefs, religion and spirituality.

The new curriculum will help to develop a generation of politically engaged and informed young people who are ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world. The Welsh Government is also working with the Politics Project, a third sector organisation, to run a pilot scheme in Wales. This project connects schools with either their local councillor or MS. It supports engagement between the representative and the schools encouraging young people to take a scrutiny role and discuss those issues important to them with decision makers.

The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act provides a legislative framework to reform and strengthen local authority democracy, accountability, collaboration and performance. We are working towards the introduction of a Democracy Handbook which will bring together guidance for local government underpinning the themes and actions related to greater transparency. This work will be undertaken in two phases, the first of which will be to map the current and intended guidance for inclusion within the handbook. The second phase will focus on the development, alongside partners, of the guidance itself in readiness for May 2022. A fundamental part of this development is to ensure diversity and equality is considered and included throughout the guidance.

We want to ensure democracy is equal to all areas in Wales and provide role models and structures so that the citizens of Wales are able to become involved in their local and national democracy.

On the international front, our International Strategy, published in January 2020, sets out our ambitions to establish Wales as a globally responsible nation to make us more competitive and well known and a trusted partner on the global stage to bring benefit to the people of Wales. We want to be considered amongst the world's most globally responsible nations, building on long traditions of internationalism and concern for fairness and a focus on people and planet.

Since 2015, our sustainable development legislation has stimulated both action and discussion about how we transform Wales into a more sustainable nation. We established the world's first statutory independent Future Generations Commissioner for Wales to be an advocate for the long term and to support decision-makers in Wales.

I hope you find this helpful.

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

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Justice