

20 August 2021

Dear Jane,

We share your concern about the situation that is unfolding in Afghanistan. We agree that Wales must play its part in the humanitarian response particularly when it comes to supporting Afghan refugees.

We would welcome a statement from you at the earliest opportunity on the assistance being provided by the Welsh Government to Afghan refugees. We have a number of specific questions:

- How many Afghan refugees do you anticipate will be given sanctuary in Wales and is there a timeline for their resettlement?
- What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the adequacy of accommodation arrangements for refugees arriving in the UK, particularly in light of the tragic death of an Afghan child in Sheffield earlier this week?
- Has the Welsh Government secured the additional funding needed from the UK Government, as described [in your comments to the BBC](#)?
- What arrangements are being made for the UK's four-nations' summit, [confirmed by the Prime Minister](#) to Parliament on 18 August?
- How many Welsh local authorities have offered support and can you please provide details of the types of support offered by each local authority?
- How do plans to support Afghan refugees compare to the support offered to Syrian refugees in 2015?
- What is the Welsh Government's view on the eligibility criteria for priority support for Afghan refugees and do you support the UK Government position to give priority to women and girls?

We would welcome a response to our letter at your earliest convenience. The Equality and Social Justice Committee is also likely to explore these issues with you further in our planned ministerial scrutiny session on 20 September.

Yours sincerely,

**Jenny Rathbone MS**

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice  
Committee

**Delyth Jewell MS**

Chair of the Culture, Communications,  
Welsh Language, Sport and International  
Relations Committee