

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay,  
Cardiff,  
CF99 1SN  
[SeneddEquality@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddEquality@senedd.wales)

20 April 2022

Dear Jenny,

I welcome the opportunity to provide information in support of the Equality and Social Justice Committee's short inquiry looking at the experiences of migrant women which sits as part of a broader piece of work on gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence.

I have addressed the Committee's areas of interest as requested in your letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> April below

We fund VAWDASV regions and specialist services to provide invaluable and lifesaving support to all victims of VAWADSV, this includes early intervention, preventative and educational support, perpetrator intervention programmes, Independent Domestic Violence Advocates for high risk victims as well as therapeutic recovery interventions for the ongoing support of those impacted by VAWDASV. This funding ensures that no matter where a victim lives in Wales, there is a strong public and specialist service ready to help.

I am aware, multi-year grant awards have been called for by third sector organisations working in the VAWDASV sector for years. Welsh Government's Grant Centre of Excellence has confirmed that strategic policy direction will be changing and therefore VAWDASV Grants will also be aligning to move to multi-year grant awards from the financial year 2023-2024.

Going forward, all competitive grants can, unless Ministers or other factors dictate otherwise, be awarded for **up to 3** years, with a benchmarking exercise to assess performance at the end of that period. Subject to the outcome of the benchmarking the grant scheme can, if required, then be extended for a further 3 years.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales](mailto: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.

In practice this will mean:

- Where possible, a move away from the practice of awarding grants for one year only;
- An end to re-competing grants each year which is administratively burdensome for both grant managers and recipients alike;
- Introduction of a benchmarking exercise at the end of the initial period of a competitive grant scheme which will determine whether organisations receive additional funding allowing a longer duration for the grant scheme;
- A greater focus on monitoring, engagement with recipients and outcomes as well as outputs.

VAWDASV officials are currently consulting, working closely with Welsh Government's Grant Centre of Excellence, to explore how we might implement and shape guidance in relation to the proposed changes to the duration of grant schemes and the introduction of benchmarking as a means of potentially extending grant schemes from 2023 onwards.

Welsh Government's Programme for Government commits to **strengthening the VAWDASV Strategy to include a focus on violence against women in the street and workplace as well as the home** in order to make Wales the safest place in Europe to be a woman. The VAWDASV indicative revenue budget for 2022-2023 is £7.875 million, which includes additional PfG allocation of £1.050m to support implementation of the new VAWDASV strategy for 2022-26.

The draft Strategy, which was available for public consultation between 7 December 2021 and 7 February 2022, was developed in discussion with a Working Group of partner organisations. As part of the consultation process, our partners facilitated focus groups, workshop sessions and other engagement with their staff, networks and service users to ensure the survivor voice could be heard during the consultation. Over 120 responses to the consultation were received from across the public, private and the third sector, as well as from individuals who are VAWDASV survivors or whose lives have been directly impacted by VAWDASV.

The Strategy will be delivered through a Blueprint approach, which will bring together devolved and non-devolved organisations, as well as strengthening the partnership between public, private and specialist sectors. This approach will ensure that discussion on actions to deliver against the Strategy continue.

My officials are currently completing their analysis of the responses and using this information to finalise the 2022-2026 VAWDASV National Strategy, due for publication late spring 2022.

The Strategy consultation proposed a subgroup on commissioning of VAWDASV services to further assist our work in planning for sustainability and longevity of funding within the sector. The group would also play a key role in delivering the priorities set out around commissioning as part of the new VAWDASV National Strategy 2022-2026. These include:

- Re-purposing the VAWDASV National Advisors Commissioning Group to form the sub-group of the National Partnership Board and establish a new collaboration and accountability framework which sets out the relationships between the National Board, Regional and Local structures as well as with Regional Partnership Boards to ensure planning and commissioning delivers against the national framework and provides sustainable, quality services.

- Developing a model for local and regional engagement to inform planning and commissioning, and
- Establishing a standards framework to establish the fundamentals of a service offer for commissioned services, drive quality and sustainability of service provision.

I look forward to discussing further with the Committee on 20 June.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane', with a horizontal line above the first letter.

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice

Jane Hutt MS  
Minister for Social Justice

Dear Jane,

1 April 2022

### Violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV)

The Equality and Social Justice Committee has launched a short inquiry looking at the experiences of migrant women which sits as part of a broader piece of work on gender-based violence, domestic abuse and sexual violence. The decision to focus our work in this area was informed by a Roundtable session held on 14 March during which we heard a number of issues regarding funding and arrangements for the next iteration of the Welsh Government's strategy. Full details of our work are available on the [inquiry homepage](#).

A key theme identified during our roundtable session was the extent to which public services and third sector organisations have clarity and certainty around the funding of specialist services to support victims of domestic abuse and sexual violence, and subsequent gaps in this provision. Stakeholders noted in particular the detrimental effect that a one-year funding cycle can have on the ability to plan work and retain staff. Following this feedback, I would be grateful if you could respond to the following points, which will help to inform our forthcoming work:

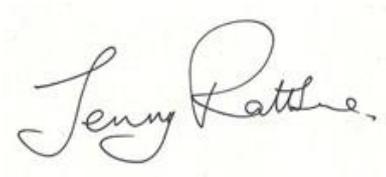
- whether the Welsh Government plans to offer multi-year grant awards to third sector organisations working in the VAWDASV sector, enabling them to make better use of their resources and plan over the longer term;
- what information would organisations in the VAWDASV sector have to provide to the Welsh Government in order for second and third year funding to be released;
- following confirmation of Budget allocations for Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse & Sexual Violence, please could you provide details of the level of funding the Welsh

Government will assign to support implementation of the new VAWDASV strategy for 2022-26; and

- the timescales for publication of the new strategy on VAWDASV and your approach to consulting on the strategy when available.

Finally, I would like to invite you to give evidence to the Committee on our short inquiry on migrant women in the Summer term. The clerks supporting the Committee will liaise with your officials on the details.

Yours sincerely,

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

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Welsh Parliament

*Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.*

*We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.*