

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair  
Equality and Social Justice Committee

27 May 2022

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 5<sup>th</sup> May asking me to set out the actions that can be taken to look at further research on the relationship between debt and alcohol addiction and/or substance misuse.

Knowledge and Analytical Service (KAS) officials from the Social Justice and Public Health portfolios are working jointly to explore options for taking this forward. Options under consideration are as follows:

- Formally commission a supplier to expand upon the previous literature review that was conducted in house
- Explore whether this could form part of the COVID-19 Evidence Centre Work Plan

As suggested, officials have been in discussions with the Equality and Data Evidence Unit and although this research does not directly relate to their area of work they will be kept informed of any progress and maintain involvement throughout.

It should be noted that as well as appraising what the evidence can tell us about the connection between addiction and debt another key consideration will be the availability of data for this area.

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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.

In order to ensure that any further research that is undertaken is fit for purpose, I would be grateful if you could provide me with some further insight on what the committee hopes to achieve by carrying out this research and ask that you provide me a more direct steer from the committee.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

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Minister for Social Justice

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