

Jane Hutt MS  
Minister for Social Justice

4 August 2022

Dear Jane,

### **Welsh Government action on the cost of living crisis**

The rising cost of living is likely to dominate public discourse in the Autumn as we approach a very difficult winter. While acknowledging the action taken by the Welsh Government to try to alleviate these pressures, publicly available information and data relating to key aspects of the support is limited. In order for us to better understand the scale and effectiveness of support and monitor the situation going forward we would welcome a response to the following questions.

#### **Winter Fuel Support Scheme**

- Please can you set out the take-up rate for the Winter Fuel Support Scheme, including how many households were eligible for support, and how many households received support in each local authority.
- Please can you also set out the total value of payments made to households in each local authority under the scheme.
- What data has the Welsh Government collected on eligibility for, and take-up of the Winter Fuel Support Scheme by socio-economic status or protected characteristic? Please can you share this information with the Committee.

#### **Cost of Living Support Scheme**

- Please set out how many households within each local authority are eligible for the Cost of Living Support Scheme, and how many have received a payment through the scheme to date.
- Please can you provide the Committee with final take-up figures, and the total value of payments made to households in each local authority when you have final data available for the Scheme after it closes on 30 September.
- What data, if any, is the Welsh Government collecting on eligibility or take-up of the Cost of Living Support Scheme broken down by socio-economic status or protected characteristic? Please could you provide the Committee with whatever information is available once the scheme closes.

- Once data is available, please provide details of how many households in each local authority were helped by the discretionary element of the Cost of Living Support Scheme, and the total value of the payments made to households in each local authority via this element of the scheme.

#### **Discretionary Assistance Fund - Emergency Assistance Payments**

- By local authority, how many applications have been made for Emergency Assistance Payments in 2020, 2021 and to date during 2022?
- Please set out how many Emergency Assistance Payments have been made through the Discretionary Assistance Fund to households in each local authority for 2020, 2021 and to date during 2022. Please can you set out the number of households that have received 2, 3, 4 or 5 Emergency Assistance Payments in each year?
- Please provide the total value of Emergency Assistance Payments made to households in each local authority for 2020, 2021 and so far during 2022.

#### **Discretionary Assistance Fund – support for off-grid households with fuel costs**

- By local authority, how many applications were made to the Discretionary Assistance Fund for support for off-grid fuel costs in 2020, 2021 and to date during 2022?
- How many payments have been made to households in each local authority to help with off-grid fuel costs through the Discretionary Assistance Fund in 2020, 2021 and 2022? Please can you set out the number of households that have received 2, 3, 4 or 5 payments relating to off-grid fuel in each year?
- Please provide the total value of payments made through the Discretionary Assistance Fund for off-grid fuel costs by each local authority in 2020, 2021 and so far during 2022.

I am copying this letter to Paul Davies MS, Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee and would welcome a response within the usual timescales.

Yours sincerely,



**Jenny Rathbone MS**

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Welsh Parliament