

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: Safety, Security and Migration IMG
JH/PO/72/2023

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

6 March 2023

Dear Huw,

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Safety, Security and Migration Interministerial Group

I am writing further to my letter of 24 January, and in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement, to report on the first meeting of the Safety, Security and Migration Interministerial Group (IMG), held on 1 February. I was hoping to have had the opportunity to inform you of the agenda items prior to the meeting but, unfortunately, I did not receive the agenda until 48 hours before it was due to start, which did not allow sufficient time. I hope that as the meetings of this IMG progress, the sharing of documents in a timely manner will become the norm.

The meeting was attended by the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon. Suella Braverman KC MP, as the Chair, by the Scottish Government's Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, Neil Gray MSP and by the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Dr Jayne Brady.

During the meeting I re-emphasised the Welsh Government's focus on crime prevention and welcomed the opportunity this IMG provides for the sharing of best practices

The meeting also provided me with an opportunity to discuss our views on the new Nationality and Borders Act and I suggested that the next IMG meeting should focus on the improvement of access to safe and legal migration routes. I expressed the Welsh

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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.

Government's concerns around the UK Government's current policy which prevents asylum seekers from being able to seek employment and the ongoing accommodation issues.

The next meeting is due to take place in May and I will inform you once a date has been finalised.

Further information can be found at [Interministerial Group for Safety, Security and Migration Communiqué: 1 February 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/interministerial-group-for-safety-security-and-migration-communiqué-1-february-2023).

I am copying this letter to Jenny Rathbone MS, Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee.

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

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WRITTEN STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

TITLE **Safety, Security and Migration Interministerial Group**

DATE **06 March 2023**

BY **Jane Hutt MS, Minister for Social Justice**

In accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement, I am giving notification that I attended the first meeting of the Safety, Security and Migration Interministerial Group (IMG), which took place virtually on 1 February, bringing together members of all four governments.

The meeting was attended by the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon. Suella Braverman KC MP, as the Chair, and the Scottish Government's Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development, Neil Gray MSP. In the absence of Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive, Dr Jayne Brady, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service, was also in attendance.

During the meeting I re-emphasised the Welsh Government's focus on crime prevention and welcomed the opportunity this IMG provides for the sharing of best practices. I outlined my work with the Domestic Abuse Commissioner and my role as Co-Chair, with PCC Dafydd Llywelyn, of our Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence National Partnership Board, which has a wide-ranging remit including violence in the home, the workplace and in public places. I reiterated the Welsh Government's commitment to further fund police community support officers across Wales.

I stated the need for Welsh Government officials to have early engagement with the UK Government on developments of the Nationality and Borders Act and stressed the need for immediate and continued discussions around current safe and legal migration routes into the UK. I suggested that safe and legal migration routes be a substantial agenda item at the next IMG.

I also expressed my interest in the Scottish Rural Visa Pilot.

There was a discussion about Asylum Dispersal, in which I highlighted the pressures that had been placed on Welsh Local Authorities and the negative impact the tariff reduction for the Ukrainian Resettlement Scheme had had on community cohesion. I expressed our disappointment in the UK Government's policy preventing asylum seekers from gaining employment, which is detrimental to the economy, given the ongoing labour shortages. I also explained that the Welsh Government has a strategy in place to provide transitional accommodation for those with a housing need in Wales and it would be beneficial if discussions could be held prior to the UK Government procuring hotels in Wales for emergency housing.

I welcomed the discussion on some aspects of Homeland Security.

A short joint Communiqué is published on the UK Government website at:

[Interministerial Group for Safety, Security and Migration Communiqué: 1 February 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/interministerial-group-for-safety-security-and-migration-1-february-2023)