

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1331
Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/00265/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

03 May 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your recent letter on behalf of the Petitions committee in relation to Petition P-06-1331 requesting consideration to implement legal requirements to private businesses to ensure they are accessible to all as a result of work undertaken by learners at Libanus Primary school who have been looking at the Social Model of Disability.

I am happy to hear that learners at Libanus Primary have taken an interest in this issue and have explored their local town to see how accessible and inclusive it is for disabled people.

The Welsh Government is fully committed in supporting all disabled people in Wales. We have set up the Disability Rights Taskforce which will run until 2024. It brings together people with lived experience, Welsh Government Policy Leads and representative organisations to identify the issues and barriers that affect the lives of many disabled people. The Taskforce works within the scope of the Welsh Government's legal remit and not in areas that solely fall under the UK Government's responsibilities.

The Taskforce established a prioritisation group to identify the key priorities for its programme of work to be addressed through the development of working groups. In February 2022, the following workstreams were identified as priority areas for the programme of work:

- Embedding and Understanding of the Social Model of Disability (across Wales)
- Access to Services (including Communications and Technology)
- Independent Living: Health, Wellbeing and Social Care (*now split into two separate groups*)

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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.

- Travel
- Employment and Income
- Affordable and Accessible Housing
- Children and Young People

The Working Groups have a range of stakeholders which includes organisations that support disabled people, disabled people with lived experience and Welsh Government policy leads.

Since formally adopting the Social Model of Disability in 2002, the Welsh Government has been committed to applying the model throughout everything it does. The provision of disability equality training has been key to achieving this commitment. All members of the Taskforce and working groups have been offered training on the Social Model of Disability and the delivery of this training will be ongoing for both new Taskforce members and Welsh Government staff in general.

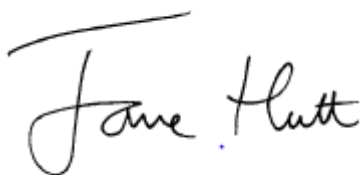
There is a duty in the Equality Act 2010 to make reasonable adjustments. The duty is that some people or organisations like employers, shops, local authorities and schools must take positive steps to remove the barriers faced by disabled people. This is to ensure disabled people receive the same services as non-disabled people.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission provides guidance to service providers about their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and this can be found here:

[Guidance for service providers | Equality and Human Rights Commission \(equalityhumanrights.com\)](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/guidance-for-service-providers)

I expect the work of the Disability Rights Taskforce to result in a clear and tangible plan of action to advance equality for disabled people in Wales. The plan will be co-produced with disabled people and disabled people's organisations to ensure that Welsh Government is putting measures in place that will have positive impacts in the areas needed to ensure barriers are systematically removed for disabled people.

Yours sincerely,

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.

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