

**Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a
Gofal Cymdeithasol**

**Health and Social Care
Committee**

**Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb
a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**

**Equality and Social Justice
Committee**

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Jane Hutt MS
Minister for Social Justice

3 January 2023

Dear Jane

Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee report: Into sharp relief: inequality and the pandemic

The Equality and Social Justice Committee and Health and Social Care Committee have recently been contacted by RNIB Cymru about a report of the previous Senedd's Equality, Local Government and Communities (ELGC) Committee regarding inequality and the pandemic.

RNIB Cymru has highlighted recommendation 37 of that report, which called for the Welsh Government to appoint an accessibility lead within the Welsh Government to oversee the production of all key public health and other information in accessible formats. This recommendation was accepted by the Welsh Government in its response to the report (September 2020), but RNIB Cymru is concerned that this has not yet been implemented.

This issue was raised again in a report by the Health and Social Care Committee in April 2022.¹ The Welsh Government accepted the Health and Social Care Committee's recommendation. However, the narrative in the response focused on the establishment of the Disability Rights Taskforce, a review of the use of British Sign Language and the preparation of guidance for staff prepared by the Access to services (including accessible communications) working group rather than directly addressing the

¹ Health and Social Care Committee, Waiting well? The impact of the waiting times backlog on people in Wales, April 2022, recommendation 13

appointment of an accessibility lead within the Welsh Government to oversee the production of all key public health and other information in accessible formats.

We would be grateful if you could provide an update in relation to the ELGC Committee's initial recommendation, including timescales for its implementation and any reasons why the appointment of an accessibility lead was omitted from the subsequent response to the Health and Social Care Committee.

We are copying this letter to the Minister for Health and Social Services.

Yours sincerely



Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

cc Eluned Morgan MS, Minister for Health and Social Services

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.