

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: Safety, Security and Migration IMG

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales
Cc Jenny Rathbone MS, Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

25 September 2023

Dear Huw,

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

I am writing further to my letter of 21 June, and in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement, to report on the second meeting of the Safety, Security and Migration Interministerial Group (IMG), held on 11 July.

The meeting was attended by the Home Secretary, the Rt Hon. Suella Braverman KC MP, as the Chair, by the Scottish Government's Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP and Northern Ireland's Senior Officials Cathy Galway and Julie Cummings.

The meeting provided me with an opportunity to express the concerns the Welsh Government has on aspects of the Illegal Migration Bill and the UK Government's delays with processing asylum applications. I also raised concerns with regards to the ongoing issues with accommodation.

In addition to the discussions around immigration I highlighted the need for improved engagement and data sharing on all aspects of Safety and National Security to ensure a successful collaborative approach to tackle drug crime and national security threats across the UK.

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

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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.

Further information on the meeting can be found at: [Interministerial Group for Safety, Security and Migration Communiqué: 11 July 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/interministerial-group-for-safety-security-and-migration-11-july-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 horizontal line above the first few letters.

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



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STATEMENT BY THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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

DATE **25 September 2023**

BY **Jane Hutt MS, Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip**

In accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement, I am giving notification that I attended the second meeting of the Safety, Security and Migration Interministerial Group (IMG), which took place virtually on 11 July, 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 Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP. Senior Officials from the Northern Ireland Executive and Northern Ireland's Department of Justice were in also in attendance in the absence of Ministers.

At the meeting I expressed my disappointment that the vote by the Senedd to withhold consent to the Illegal Migration Bill was not considered by UK Government. I highlighted the concerns that Welsh Government have on the negative impact the bill will have on unaccompanied children in Wales and the need for us to be involved in the development of guidance to ensure Welsh Governments legislations are not over written.

During the meeting I also re-emphasised the Welsh Government's focus on Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary and our continuing commitment to asylum dispersal and community cohesion; and how thorough and consistent communication between the Home Office's private provider and Local Authorities is vital in ensuring Wales meets its accommodation target. I raised concerns on the increasing timescales for processing asylum applications and the negative impact this is having on both applicants and the economy and re-iterated my previous requests for a review of the current UK Government's policy which prevents asylum seekers for working for the first twelve months of entering the UK.

I praised the hard work being undertaken by Border Force officials to tackle the increasing influx of illegal drugs into the UK and welcomed the current work being undertaken to develop a memorandum of understanding with Welsh Government to improve information sharing. I expressed that the Welsh Government would welcome the opportunity to be engaged on all matters of crime and highlighted the benefits of a collaborative approach when tackling crime and threats to National Security.

A short joint Communiqué is published on the UK Government website at: [Interministerial Group for Safety, Security and Migration Communiqué: 11 July 2023](#)