

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1376
Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/00877/23

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

25 October 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 17 October regarding Petition P-06-1376 which calls on Welsh Government to stop basic income pilot payments to unaccompanied asylum-seekers.

The Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot offered more than 600 care leavers turning 18 between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 the opportunity to receive £1600 each month (before tax) for two years to support them as they make the transition to adult life. This included some individuals who were unaccompanied asylum-seeking children at the point of enrolment. Care experienced unaccompanied asylum-seeking children have always been included as eligible for the basic income pilot as category three care leavers..

In line with our Nation of Sanctuary approach, we want to ensure that unaccompanied asylum-seeking children are supported to rebuild their lives. Enabling eligible young people to participate in the Basic Income for Care Leavers in Wales pilot supports this ambition.

The reason we proposed working with this cohort over any other groups who typically face poverty and other forms of disadvantage, is to understand the unique challenges care leavers themselves face and whether extending the time they are supported could have a positive impact on their entry into adulthood.

The basic income monthly payment of £1600 is taxed at source (before the young person receives it) as unearned income. As such, all participants in the pilot receive £1280 a month, subject to any changes in the basic rate of income tax.

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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.

Our enrolment data regarding former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children reflects their asylum status at the point of enrolment, and we know that subsequently a number of former unaccompanied asylum-seeking children participating in the pilot have been granted leave to remain since joining the pilot.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

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