

Julie James AS/MS

**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol, Tai a Chynllunio
Cabinet Secretary for Housing, Local Government and Planning**



**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

John Griffiths MS
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
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30 April 2024

Dear John

I welcome the work you and members of the Local Government and Housing Committee have undertaken in respect of diversity in local government and the Committee's report. This builds upon the inquiry the committee undertook in 2019, and it is encouraging to see the progress made since then.

One of the important issues raised as part of the recent inquiry focussed on the issues of abuse in politics. I understand you and members of the committee were disappointed you were unable to participate in the abuse in politics event, hosted by the then Minister for Finance and Local Government Rebecca Evans, MS which took place on Wednesday 31st January 2024 due to other commitments.

This was a subject which also drew the attention of members during the debate on the Committee's Diversity in Local Government report on Wednesday 7th February in Plenary during which the concerns about the current position elected members find themselves in when conducting their daily business.

The event benefited from having representation from all levels of government in Wales including the Senedd, principal councils and community and town councils. It was helpful to be able to compare and contrast approaches which are already being taken and share thoughts and concerns about issues that participants felt needed to be addressed.

My officials are planning for the second stage in this work which is to discuss potential solutions with a wider range of people and organisations at the WLGA conference on 27th June.

I would welcome an opportunity to discuss this issue with you so that your experiences and ideas for change can inform this next stage. If you would like to take up this offer perhaps our officials can work together to identify a mutually convenient date for us to meet.

Yours sincerely,



Julie James AS/MS

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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.