

Recruitment of Older People's Commissioner Wales

Background:

The Commissioner's role and statutory powers are defined by the Commissioner for Older People (Wales) Act 2006 and accompanying Regulations.

The Act outlines the action that the Commissioner can take to ensure that the interests of older people are safeguarded and promoted when public bodies discharge their functions and the assistance the Commissioner may provide directly to older people in certain situations.

Commissioner's Functions

- Promote awareness of the rights and interests of older people in Wales.
- Challenge discrimination against older people in Wales.
- Encourage best practice in the treatment of older people in Wales.
- Review the law affecting the interests of older people in Wales.

Relationship with Older People

The Commissioner must ensure that:

- Older people in Wales are made aware of the existence and functions of the Commissioner's office.
- Older people in Wales are made aware of the location of the Commissioner's office or offices and the ways in which they may communicate with the Commissioner and his or her staff.
- Older people are encouraged to communicate with the Commissioner and his or her staff.
- The views of older people are sought as to how the Commissioner should exercise his or her functions and as to the content of the Commissioner's annual work programme.
- The Commissioner and his or her staff make themselves available to such older people in the older person's locality.

Publicity summary:

The Welsh Government circulated details of the appointment through stakeholder lists held by the Public Bodies Unit (PBU) and posted the vacancy on the Welsh Government public appointments website.

The vacancy was promoted and advertised through the as set out below:

- Y Cymro
- Golwg (web only)
- Diversity Jobsite
- Fish 4 Jobs

Recruitment process summary:

Advertised on the Welsh Government website between 15 January and 9 February 2024

Sift – 11 March 2024

Stakeholder Session – 18 April 2024.

The First Minister is required by legislation to take account of the views of older people as to any candidates interviewed for the appointment. The Older People's Panel (OPP) is made up of a number of appropriate individuals. They who reflect an in-depth knowledge and experience of the issues which affect older people and demonstrate a commitment to champion these.

The candidates were asked to deliver a 15-minute presentation on the following:

“What personal qualities will you bring to the role of Older People's Commissioner”.

Interviews – 12 and 13 June 2024. The candidates were also asked to deliver a presentation on the following:

How would you prioritise your time and resources as Older People's Commissioner to reach older people in greatest need of your support?

Assessment advisory panel membership:

Lesley Griffiths MS, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice (Chair)
Jenny Rathbone MS, Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee
Ruth Mark, Senior Independent Panel Member
Albert Heaney, Chief Social Care Officer for Wales, Welsh Government.

A total of 12 applications for the new role were received. 6 candidates were recommended for interview. The Assessment Advisory Panel considered there to be 2 Appointable candidates.

First Minister's preferred candidate – Rhian Bowen Davies

Conflict of Interest (taken from application form)

I currently run an independent consultancy business as a sole trader which specialises in domestic abuse and sexual violence in particular the Charing of Domestic Homicide Reviews.

Political Activity

None