



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1404
Ein cyf/Our ref DB/10163/24
Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

petitions@senedd.wales

04 November 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 16 October regarding petition P-06-1404 which requests greater clarity and rights to help people in receipt of direct payments or the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG) to live independently.

The letter refers to the petitioner's response to my letter of 13 August. The contents of the response have been noted.

I would like to reiterate that the Welsh Government continues to work towards improving the social care experiences for people throughout Wales. As indicated in my letter dated 13 August, my officials are working across various sectors and with many different stakeholder groups to improve clarity for those in receipt of direct payments and further uphold the rights of disabled people.

Part 10 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires local authorities to give certain individuals assistance to access advocacy services when engaging with them whilst they are exercising their statutory duties. The Act also requires local authorities to provide information and advice relating to their care and support. The aim of these measures is to give people voice and control over their lives and to support their rights.

With regards to the question concerning whether Welsh Government has any plans for a Commissioner for Disabled People, the Disability Rights Taskforce, which held its final meeting in Summer 2024, established ten working groups to improve the lives of disabled people. The 'Access to Justice' working group considered the establishment of a Commissioner for Disabled People. Creating a commissioner's office would duplicate the efforts of the Disability Equality Forum and we believe an ongoing focus on enhancing the

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Dawn.Bowden@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Dawn.Bowden@gov.wales

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.

delivery of the Disability Rights Action Plan will be more effective in ensuring tangible improvements to the lives of disabled people in Wales. A consultation scheduled for early Spring will provide the public with an opportunity to share their views on the priorities for the action plan.

The Disability Rights Taskforce working group on Independent Living: Social Care put forward an ambitious recommendation to establish a National Centre for Independent Living in Wales, run and controlled by disabled people themselves. The Welsh Government's Disability Disparity Unit is coproducing research with members of the Taskforce to provide further evidence on the feasibility of this recommendation. The work is nearing its conclusion, and the associated report will be published on the Welsh Government's website.

Thank you for writing to me on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dawn Bowden AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Plant a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Minister for Children and Social Care