

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH/PO/350/24

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

22 November 2024

Dear Mike,

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Forthcoming Intergovernmental Meetings

I am writing in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement to notify you of the establishment of the Four Nations Group on the UK Government Child Poverty Strategy. The purpose of the group is to embed Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland into the development of a UK-wide strategy on Child Poverty. The group will provide the opportunity for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to inform the development of the UK-wide strategy and ensure the proposed strategy complements existing and developing strategies in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

I attended the inaugural meeting on the 13th of November. The meeting was chaired by Alison McGovern MP - Minister for Employment and Catherine McKinnell MP – Minister for School Standards. Also in attendance was Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP – Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Scottish Government and Emma Little-Pengelly – Deputy First Minister and Junior Minister Aisling Reilly, Northern Ireland Executive.

During this meeting I emphasised the need for collaborative working across government to tackle child poverty. I also sought to ensure that our strategies complement each other and do not duplicate, particularly around areas of reserved and devolved competencies, to highlight approaches here in Wales to tackling child poverty and mitigating the worst impacts of living in poverty and to press Wales priorities particularly in non-devolved areas.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to provide prior notification of this meeting due to it being called at short notice.

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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.

This forum is likely to meet on a monthly basis up until the publication of the UK Government Child Poverty Strategy, which is proposed for the Spring of 2025. Unfortunately as meetings are likely to be called at short notice it will not be possible to provide advance notice of the dates of each meeting. I will, however, provide an update following each meeting and will inform you when the group concludes its work.

I am copying this letter to Huw Irranca-Davies MS, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs; the Children, Young People and Education Committee; and the Equalities and Social Justice Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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