

18th November 2024

Dear Councillor Morgan,

Inquiry into the disability employment gap

The Equality and Social Justice Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the disability employment gap. We are exploring what progress has been made and what more could be done to reduce and remove barriers to employment faced by disabled people. The **terms of reference** for the inquiry can be found on our web page.

When considering the role of local authorities as major employers, Terry Mills, Disabled People's Employment Champion, informed us that Pembrokeshire County Council is currently the only local authority which has Disability Confident Leader status. The Disability Confident Leader status is considered an important kitemark of the commitment of an organisation to disabled employees. In contrast, we heard from Andrea Wayman, Elite Support Employment and others that levels 1 and 2 of the Disability Confident scheme are limited and potentially less robust.

We would appreciate it if you could inform the Committee about any work or developments taking place across Wales to support and encourage local authorities to do more to recruit and support disabled people to become and remain employees. We are also interested in whether other local authorities can be encouraged to achieve Disability Confident Leader status and if not whether there are any barriers to achieve this.

It would be appreciated if we could receive your response before the 2nd December 2024.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Rathbone'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Jenny' written in a larger, more prominent script than the surname 'Rathbone'.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

