

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/114/25

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN  
SeneddEquality@senedd.wales

14 March 2025

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 21 February on the Child Poverty Strategy and Monitoring Framework requesting further information following a technical briefing from my officials on the 10 February.

The purpose of the Monitoring Framework is not to report on all possible measures and indicators of poverty, nor does it seek to replace the nationally recognised Wellbeing of Future Generations poverty indicators. Its purpose is to provide insight, as part of the wider three yearly reporting on the Child Poverty Strategy, on the progress made against the objectives within the Child Poverty Strategy and the difference the powers and levers of the Welsh Government are making to the lives of people in Wales. Such differences can be masked by the headline national poverty statistics due to the influence of levers at a UK Government level. Moving beyond an exclusive focus on these statistics also reflects the multi-faceted nature of child poverty in Wales.

### **Current and trend data of measures in the standard of living domain**

The data you requested on the standard of living domain measures listed below, including recent trends, can be found at [Relative income poverty: April 2022 to March 2023 | GOV.WALES](#). You may wish to note that the next update, covering the period up to March 2024, will be published on 27 March 2025 and will be available from [Relative income poverty | GOV.WALES](#).

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

[Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@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.

- Percentage of children in Wales living in relative income poverty (after housing costs).
- Percentage of children in Wales living in relative income poverty (after housing costs), by number of children in the household.
- Children in Wales living in relative income poverty (after housing costs), by economic status of household.
- Percentage of children in Wales living in relative income poverty (after housing costs), by disability in the family.

Data on children in Wales living in relative income poverty (after housing costs), by family type can be found on the [Stats Wales](#) website.

Data on percentage of children in material deprivation can be found at [Wellbeing of Wales: national indicators | GOV.WALES](#) (indicator 19) or on the [Stats Wales](#) website (in both cases you will need to select for age as 16-24).

Finally, the data on percentage of secondary school children who eat breakfast every weekday by family affluence can be found at [Children's Health & Well-being Dashboard](#). 2017 and 2023 data have been included in Annex A to this letter.

### **The distinction between outputs and outcomes**

In your letter you asked for a note summarising the distinction between output and outcomes and why these are significant in the context of the Monitoring Framework. The Monitoring Framework, is an outcomes-based framework, the distinctions therefore are important to ensure that the framework is reporting on the right things that is the outcomes that best demonstrate the impact of the framework and of the Welsh Government levers in delivering against child poverty.

In the development of the Framework the following distinctions between outputs and outcomes have been adopted.

- Outputs are considered to be the tangible deliverables from a specific policy intervention (e.g. number of childcare places provided). Outcomes are the specific changes we want to see as a result of policy interventions, i.e. they are a consequence of delivering or achieving specific activities or outputs.

Whilst the Monitoring Framework will report against the selected outcomes, our intention is to show progress against policy outputs in the policy progress report element of the three yearly report on our Child Poverty Strategy.

As Professor Hick noted in his independent review, this outcomes-based framework will provide a very helpful tool for evaluating the effectiveness of Welsh Government activities against the Child Poverty Strategy 2024, when considered alongside evidence of the lived experience of young people and an analysis of policy outputs.

## **Rationale behind focusing on national indicators**

You asked in your letter for an explanation of the rationale behind focusing on national indicators. The purpose of the Monitoring Framework is to report on regular, robust and credible population level data on a range of child poverty indicators and measures which can provide insight on impact and direction of travel of the Child Poverty Strategy and the associated outcomes for children and young people.

We already have Wellbeing of Future Generations national indicators, set by Welsh Ministers in 2016, which help us measure our progress as a nation over time. The Chief Statistician and Strategic Evidence Board advised officials that any monitoring frameworks developed by the Welsh Government should always consider the inclusion of relevant national indicators in the first instance. The full list of national indicators are reported on annually in our [Well-being of Wales report](#) (last published September 2024). The national indicators and their associated measures included in our Monitoring Framework provide a robust and consistent means to assess our progress against the Child Poverty Strategy over the long term.

However, in terms of children and young people, it is recognised that the national indicators largely cover families with children and 16 to 24-year-olds, with less data available for children under the age of 16. The outcomes evidence for this younger group is therefore supported with data taken from outside the national indicators, specifically from the School Health Research Network's Student Health and Well-being Surveys.

## **Inclusion and omission of specific measures**

The Monitoring Framework is not intended to reflect all possible outcomes for children and young people in poverty but provide an insight on the impact and direction of travel on the outcomes for children and young people from the Child Poverty Strategy. The Committee may wish to note that a wider set of data relevant for children and young people can be found in the [Wellbeing of Wales Children and Young People's report](#) and the School Health Research Network's [Children's Health & Well-being Dashboard](#).

As I have noted above the primary focus of the framework is on the national indicators. In considering the number of indicators to include we were mindful of Professor Hick's view that whilst more highly dimensional structures better represent the experience of the variety of forms of child poverty and wellbeing, this can come at the cost of simplicity of understanding.

In considering which indicator or measure to include in the framework, the indicator and its associated measures were required (where possible) to:

- Be relevant to the Child Poverty Strategy.
- Represent an outcome measure for children and young people.
- Be populated by routinely available robust data.
- Have a clear and well understood interpretation.
- Add value and not be duplicative.

We will continue to explore feasible ways to secure quality data to address any gaps, where there is a clear rationale for doing so. Such decisions will need to be carefully considered and mindful of the advice from Professor Hick that additional measures would make the task of summarising the lessons from a complex monitoring framework more challenging.

While there will be different views around the inclusion or omission of specific measures, the systematic approach taken by the officials has ensured there is consistency in how criteria are applied. This is reflected in the conclusion of Professor Hick's independent review that the monitoring framework 'will provide the basis for a rich evaluation of social outcomes for children, young people and their families'.

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 letter of "Jane".

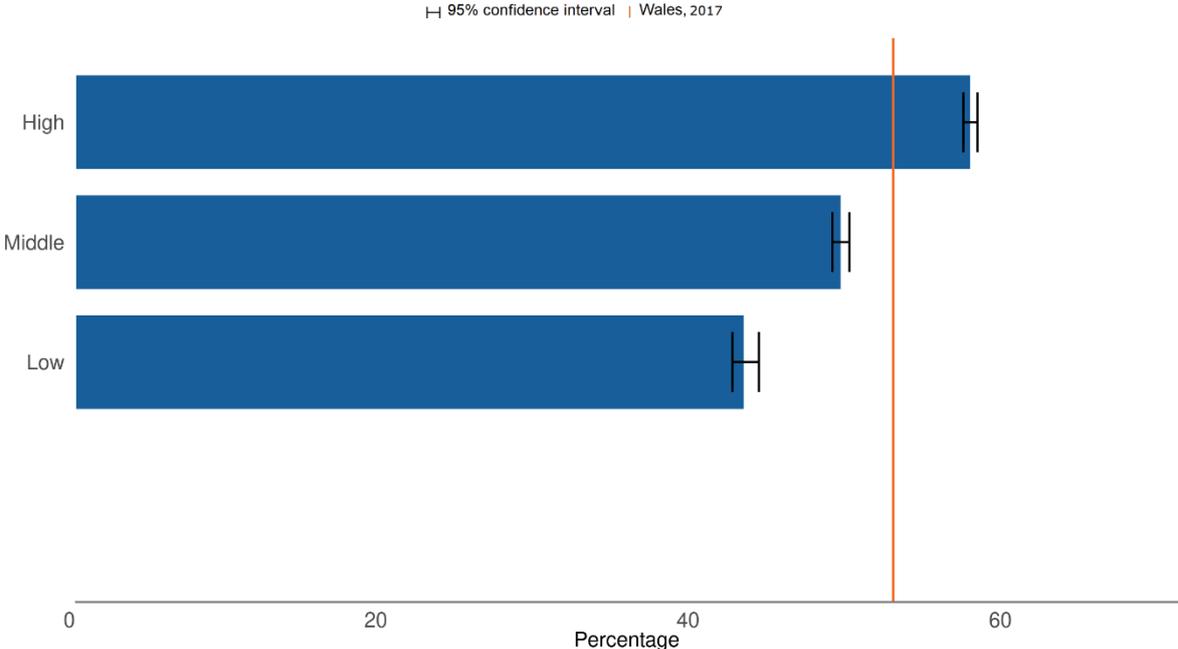
**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

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

# Annex A

## Reported eating breakfast every weekday, percentage, persons, aged 11-16, low, middle and high Family Affluence Scale (FAS) scores, Wales, 2017

Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using SHRN data



## Reported eating breakfast every weekday, percentage, persons, aged 11-16, low, middle and high Family Affluence Scale (FAS) scores, Wales, 2023

Produced by Public Health Wales Observatory, using SHRN data

