

**Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb
a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**

**Equality and Social Justice
Committee**

Professor Rod Hick
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Dear Professor Hick,

Child Poverty Strategy and Monitoring Framework

Thank you for giving evidence on 10 February. As highlighted during the session Members are concerned that there are no targets within the Welsh Government's Child Poverty Strategy and want to understand how the lack of targets may impact the effectiveness of the Monitoring Framework. These concerns were highlighted previously in our [report](#) on the Draft Child Poverty Strategy.

You will be aware of considerable support for targets as a means of ensuring that governments focus attention, action and resources on tackling poverty.¹ Nevertheless, the Welsh Government chose not to accept our recommendation to set headline targets either in the strategy or the monitoring framework.

Within this context we would appreciate if you could clarify:

- whether you believe targets could be helpful in providing focus and measuring progress in relation to child poverty in Wales;
- why you believe the multi-indicator framework approach adopted by the Welsh Government is the most effective method of measuring progress against the strategy, in light of research in the field of reducing child poverty;
- why key indicators such as the child poverty rate by housing tenure, the proportion of children in poverty who sit A-levels or go to university; and tooth

¹ See Equality and Social Justice Committee "Calling time etc."

decay rates in children aged 7 were omitted from the set of measures included in the framework; and

- why the [national indicator for the percentage of children with two or more healthy lifestyle behaviours](#) was not included as one of the relevant indicators in the framework.

It would be appreciated if you could provide a response by 14 March. With thanks in advance for your cooperation on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jenny Rathbone". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'J'.

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Senedd Cymru