

# Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

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Meeting Venue: **Committee Room 2 – Senedd**

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Meeting date: **Wednesday, 1 May 2013**

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Meeting time: **09:00 – 11:02**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



This meeting can be viewed on Senedd TV at:

[http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en\\_300000\\_01\\_05\\_2013&t=0&l=en](http://www.senedd.tv/archiveplayer.jsf?v=en_300000_01_05_2013&t=0&l=en)

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## Concise Minutes:

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### Assembly Members:

**Peter Black**  
**Janet Finch–Saunders**  
**Mike Hedges**  
**Mark Isherwood**  
**Gwyn R Price**  
**Ken Skates**  
**Rhodri Glyn Thomas**  
**Lindsay Whittle**  
**Christine Chapman (Chair)**  
**Jenny Rathbone**

### Witnesses:

**Reg Kilpatrick, Director, Welsh Government**  
**Owain Lloyd, Welsh Government**  
**Lesley Griffiths, Minister for Local Government and Government Business**

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### Committee Staff:

**Marc Wyn Jones (Clerk)**  
**Sarah Bartlett (Deputy Clerk)**

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## TRANSCRIPT

View the [meeting transcript](#).

## **1. Introductions, apologies and substitutions**

1.1 There were no apologies.

## **2. Ministerial Scrutiny Session – Minister for Local Government and Government Business**

2.1 The Committee heard evidence from the Minister for Local Government and Government Business. The Minister agreed to provide a note on the following:

The use of reserve funding within local authorities;

Update in the autumn on the additional funding allocated to local authorities to assist in the promotion of local democracy and public engagement;

The commencement in the Local Government Measure of the section relating to remote attendance;

The availability of a gender audit within the salary information that local authorities are required to provide;

The timetable for introducing new regulations for the council tax reduction schemes;

The possibility of centrally recording Councillors declaration of interests as part of local authorities Code of Conduct;

Update on the submission to the Silk Commission requesting that all matters regarding local government elections to be devolved and specifically with the exception of registration and franchise;

The possible issues surrounding the structure of voting systems in local government if local governments were re-organised and election powers were not devolved.

When available the evaluation report of the last round of outcome agreements;

The funding of SARC's and IDVA's and in-particular how this will be sustained;

When available the report from the Anti-Human Trafficking Co-ordinator;

Update on the issues raised at the Ministers forthcoming meeting with the Probation Service;

What work has been done regarding the issue of stalking and how the Government has engaged with the UK government's stalking agenda;

The Scrutiny arrangements around regional education partnerships across Wales;

Further information on the Public Service Leadership Group.