



Ein cyf/Our ref JH/PO/248/25

John Griffiths MS
Chair, Local Government and Housing Committee
Welsh Parliament
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Dear John,

Thank you for the opportunity to present an update to the Local Government Housing Committee during the debate on the follow up enquiry into the provision of sites for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers on 7th May.

I am providing an update on two of the Anti-racist Wales Action Plan goals, that my officials are currently delivering.

1. Transit Provision: To engage with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community members to identify the need for appropriate transit provision in Wales.

In January 2024, my officials met with all local authorities to discuss taking a regional approach to the provision of transit sites and collection of associated data. The overwhelming feedback from the discussions highlighted the necessity of understanding transit needs on a national, All-Wales basis.

In response to the feedback Welsh Government awarded a contract to Gypsies and Travellers Wales (GTW) to build national evidence based on the need for transit sites. GTW will work in collaboration with Gypsy and Traveller communities, local authorities, WLGA, Corporate Joint Committees, Public Service Boards, Police and Health Boards and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller organisations to provide evidence of the movement of this community across Wales, including their movements in and out of local authority areas and Wales itself. This information will help us to understand the transit needs across Wales, make recommendations for the location of transit provision, and propose a suitable model for implementing transit sites, including appropriate onsite welfare

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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.

provisions. GTW will provide the national evidence base and recommendations by the end of this year and a full report will be shared with local authorities.

To encourage stakeholder participation Welsh Government are writing a letter for distribution to all local authorities urging them to participate in the transit research project over the next 6 months. Local authorities and stakeholder involvement is crucial to the success of this initiative, and we expect full cooperation to achieve our objectives. Involving community members in this evidence-based approach will be key to understanding the needs of travelling life for families across Wales and preventing social exclusion.

2. National Training: To upskill all 22 local authorities in Wales on Gypsy, Roma and Travellers nomadic ways of living.

It is the responsibility of local authorities to apply a culturally sensitive understanding and respect towards the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller community, which is essential for effective communication and relationship building.

To support this, Welsh Government are in the process of procuring an external training company to design a national training programme to upskill local authorities and deliver it over a 3-year period. Central to this is that it will incorporate the lived experiences of the Gypsy and Traveller community and be developed with community members.

Bids have been assessed, and my officials are approaching the final stages of the procurement process.

I hope this information is helpful in assisting the Committee's recommendation.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Hutt MS

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