

Email to the Equality and Social Justice Committee from Natalie Jarvis- 12.06.25

Dear Equality and Social Justice Committee,

I'm writing on behalf of All Wales Forum and Disability Wales regarding the *Pathways to Work* Green Paper consultation. We are formally requesting an extension to the consultation period and would greatly value your support in this call.

We are especially concerned that the current consultation process is failing to provide an accessible or inclusive platform for disabled people, carers, and organisations across Wales to meaningfully participate.

Issues such as short notice for events, the cancellation of in-person sessions, digital-only formats, and conflicting schedules have made it extremely difficult for people to engage. We strongly believe that this undermines the spirit of fair and lawful consultation.

We have already received support from Sioned Williams MS and Mark Isherwood MS and are reaching out to ask whether the members of the committee would be willing for us to include your names in support of the attached request to the Pathways to Work Consultation Team. Even a short extension would significantly improve participation across Wales.

Thanks in advance

Natalie

Dear Pathways to Work Consultation Team,

All Wales Forum and Disability Wales are collaboratively reaching out to formally request an extension of the current Pathways to Work consultation period. We believe that this extension is essential due to several pressing issues that hinder meaningful participation, particularly for individuals and communities in Wales.

We echo the concerns outlined by Disabled People Against Cuts (DPAC), who have sent a joint signatory letter to Stephen Timms MP detailing the issues with the consultation events and advocating for an extension. Their letter outlines important points that align with our concerns and can be accessed here: [Open letter: #NoVoteWithoutWales - stop disability cuts.](#)

Firstly, we are concerned by the lack of accessible consultation events held throughout Wales. The cancellation of in-person events has significantly limited opportunities for engagement. The

recent decision to reschedule one event to a date just prior to the consultation's conclusion raises considerable concerns about the adequacy of notice provided along with the ability to include this input within the subsequent readings in parliament.

Furthermore, the choice to conduct this event solely in a digital format poses serious accessibility challenges. This format effectively excludes individuals who are either digitally disadvantaged or who may require face-to-face interactions to fully participate and voice their perspectives. We are yet to receive clear clarification of in-person events for Wales.

In addition to these accessibility issues, there have been significant discrepancies surrounding the scheduling of various events. For example, the event on June 12 was initially advertised with conflicting times—first listed as 10:00–12:00 and later changed to 13:00–15:00. Furthermore, despite confirming attendance at the event on June 26, there remains no assurance of the time it will take place. These inconsistencies detract from our ability to adequately prepare and assist those we represent, creating unnecessary confusion and barriers to participation.

Given the considerable accessibility barriers, the ongoing scheduling issues, and the widespread anxieties articulated by disabled individuals, their families, caregivers, and elected representatives, we firmly believe that an extension is not only warranted but necessary. It is critical for ensuring that this consultation is carried out in a lawful and inclusive manner.

We would also like to note that Sioned Williams MS, Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Learning Disability and Mark Isherwood MS, Chair of the Cross-Party Group on Disability have expressed their support for a call to extend the consultation period due to our concerns, recognising the need for more inclusive practices.

We urge you to consider this request with the urgency it deserves. We look forward to your prompt response.

Kind regards,

Natalie Jarvis (She/Her)

Policy and Research Officer / Swyddog Polisi ac Ymchwil

Secretary Cross Party Group on Disability / Ysgrifennydd y Grŵp Trawsbleidiol ar Anabledd

