

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

Your ref P-06-1563  
Our ref JH-/01039/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

22 December 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 2 December 2025 regarding Petition P-06-1563, submitted by Luke Thomas and supported by signatories on the Senedd petitions website. This reply is provided to the Petitions Committee as the formal response of the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government recognises the importance of addressing the concerns of Welsh citizens and communities. It is important to be clear that immigration and asylum policy are reserved matters, determined by the UK Government. The Welsh Government does not have the power to implement or stop UK-wide policies on this issue.

The Welsh Government does not decide on how many people seeking sanctuary in the UK are placed in Wales – nor does it decide on who is placed in Wales. This has always been a decision for the UK Government alone. We have committed to welcoming our proportionate share of people seeking sanctuary in the UK – this is the equivalent of up to 5% of all arrivals.

Within our devolved powers, the Welsh Government continues to work to ensure that Wales remains a safe, welcoming, and cohesive nation. We will support people who come to Wales, helping them settle, access services, and integrate successfully into their communities. At the same time, we continue to tackle poverty, reduce homelessness, and improve public services for all residents, ensuring that the needs of Welsh citizens are addressed alongside our wider commitments.

The Welsh Government is committed to promoting inclusive communities where everyone can contribute meaningfully to society. This approach allows us to balance providing support to those who need sanctuary with ensuring that local communities are strengthened and that residents' needs are prioritised within our devolved responsibilities.

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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.

In 2016, the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee conducted an [inquiry](#) into refugees and asylum seekers and recommended that the Welsh Government take steps to make Wales a Nation of Sanctuary. As a direct result of that inquiry, we published the Nation of Sanctuary Plan in 2019, which was subsequently updated as part of the [Anti-racist Wales Action Plan](#) (2024).

Wales being a Nation of Sanctuary means supporting those who, fleeing persecution and war, arrive here to rebuild their lives. We assist them to integrate into Welsh life and contribute positively to our nation. We believe this compassionate response gives people seeking sanctuary the best start possible and also helps local services and communities too.

I am proud of our vision of Wales as a Nation of Sanctuary, and proud of the way we work in partnership with local authorities, health boards, third sector partners and communities to make this vision a reality across Wales. I am also proud of our many communities, towns, cities, schools and universities who wish to become places of sanctuary and welcome for those seeking sanctuary in Wales. At a time of global instability and humanitarian crises, it is more important than ever that we uphold our values of compassion, welcome and community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter of "Jane".

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip