

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
CELG(4)-22-15 Papur 4 / Paper 4

Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/LG/2438/15

Christine Chapman AC/AM
Chair, Communities, Equality and Local
Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

8th September 2015

Dear Christine

Ahead of my attendance at Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee on 24 September, I am writing to update the Committee with the attached paper on progress from the Budget Advisory Group for Equality.

I am copying this letter to the Minister for Finance and Government Business.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Budget Advisory Group for Equality

The Budget Advisory Group for Equality was established in December 2012, following a commitment in the Equality Impact Assessment of the Draft Budget 2013-14. The Group provides advice, support and challenge to improve equality considerations of our budget process. It provides a forum for sharing and discussing the nature of inequalities in Wales and is a valuable source of expertise and a key channel for engagement.

Membership

In 2012-13, the BAGE was chaired by the Minister for Finance and Government Business, who had responsibility for equality. The Group meets four times a year.

Since July 2013, the group has been co-chaired by the Minister for Finance and Government Business and the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty. The following groups are represented at the BAGE:

- AGE Cymru
- Disability Wales
- NHS Centre for Equality and Human Rights
- Stonewall
- UNCRC Monitoring Group
- Wales Race Forum
- Wales TUC
- WEN Wales
- WCVA
- WLGA

Caroline Joll, ex-emeritus economist, Cardiff University, provides expert advice and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) also sits on the group as an independent observer.

Summary of work

In January 2015, the Group reviewed its Terms of Reference and remit, formulated a work programme to undertake in-depth discussions and considerations of aspects of Welsh Government programmes and policies and requested a web presence on the Welsh Government's Internet site.

To date they have discussed housing policy and the Foundation Phase Evaluation. During the remainder of the year, the group will discuss educational attainment and protected characteristics and Communities First.

Transparency

A web-page has been set up on the Welsh Government's Equality and Diversity pages. This explains the work of the Group and hosts meeting agendas, papers and minutes of past meetings. These can be found at:

<http://gov.wales/topics/people-and-communities/equality-diversity/budget-advisory-group-for-equality/?lang=en>

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September 2015