

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-320
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/05755/11

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions committee
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18 October 2011

Dear William

Thank you for your further letter of 28 September regarding petition P-04-320 on social housing allocation policy. Your letter seeks clarification of the meaning of the term 'local connection' and the flexibilities local authorities have in terms of social housing allocation policy in Wales.

As previously explained, the Welsh Government has recently reviewed the *Code of Guidance for Local Authorities on Allocation of Accommodation and Homelessness*. The definition of 'local connection' in the Code of Guidance is as set out in section 199 of the Housing Act 1996. This revised guidance does not re-define the meaning of 'local connection' but reinforces the flexibility local authorities have within their allocation policies to meet local pressures.

This flexibility may include prioritising applicants in terms of local priorities, waiting time and local connection.

Local authorities requiring clarification on who qualifies as having a 'local connection' will need to seek their own legal advice as the Welsh Government is not empowered to interpret the statutes.

I hope this clarifies the position.

Best Regards
Huw

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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