

Jane Hutt AS/MS  
Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a'r Prif Chwip  
Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref

Jenny Rathbone, MS  
Chair of Equality and Social Justice Committee

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10 August 2023

Dear Jenny

Thank you for your letter of 28 July regarding your intention to launch a short inquiry on the Draft Child Poverty Strategy for Wales 2023. I am grateful for the Committee's continued interest in this important issue. Previous inquiries were most helpful as we drafted the strategy for its consultation.

The draft strategy has been developed on the basis of evidence, particularly from the Wales Centre for Public Policy, and following engagement with 3,300 people with lived experience and the organisations that support them. This included 1,402 children and young people. The consultation will close on 11 September, and we anticipate a healthy number of responses.

While I will very much welcome the Committee's findings, the strategy will be considered by Cabinet during November. It would therefore be very helpful if the Committee could share your inquiry findings by 27 October at the latest to allow time for my officials to give the findings due consideration while finalising the strategy.

I do hope that date is achievable for the Committee. I wish to reassure you and the committee that any information provided later than this date will still be taken into account in the broader sense of informing our work on child poverty. For example, I note that some of the areas you intend to explore relate to determining progress in addressing child poverty and the effectiveness of interventions in addressing child poverty in specific groups. As indicated in the draft Strategy we will be seeking independent advice on suitable indicators

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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.

and a framework to monitor and report on progress. Your findings will also be fed into that work over the autumn.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

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