

Jayne Bryant AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Lywodraeth Leol a Thai  
Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Housing



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

11 July 2025

Dear Mike,

I write to you in relation to the recent conflict between Israel and Iran in June. In response, the UK Government arranged assisted departures to evacuate British nationals residing in Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza Strip or East Jerusalem via chartered flights. The evacuation has now ended, but in the meantime, we need to prepare for those who have returned to the UK.

The changes the UK Government intends to make to disapply the habitual residence test, with effect from 17 July, will give those arriving from the affected areas immediate access to benefits, including housing and homelessness assistance. These changes require an urgent response to ensure parity in aligning the housing rules in Wales. I have therefore, instructed my officials to undertake the necessary actions to reflect the UK Government legislative change in Wales as a matter of urgency.

The Allocation of Housing and Homelessness (Eligibility) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2025 made under the affirmative procedure, will be laid before the Senedd on 14 July 2025. Due to the urgency of this situation and to ensure the law in Wales aligns with the changes made at a UK level, to avoid those arriving in Wales being disadvantaged, I will be seeking the Senedd's agreement to suspend Standing Orders to enable the Regulations to be debated on 15 July 2025, before the end of term.

It is unfortunate that the timing of the Regulations mean the Committee will not be able to undertake their usual scrutiny ahead of the debate, as would normally be afforded. However, I am sure the Committee would agree that they are necessary in providing support to the people fleeing the violence and conflict and affording them an opportunity to seek housing or homelessness assistance in Wales without undue delay.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
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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.

I am copying this letter to the Llywydd given my wish to suspend Standing Orders.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Jayne Bryant**

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Cabinet Secretary for Local Government and Housing