

Carl Sargeant AM
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

11 October 2017

Dear Carl

Making the economy work for people on low incomes – Welfare Benefits reform

We are currently holding an inquiry into making the economy work for people on low incomes. This links into our other work looking at poverty in Wales, including on Communities First.

One strand of the low income inquiry is about the role welfare benefits play in supporting people. As part of this, we took oral evidence from Dr Sharon Wright and Dr Lisa Scullion, who are both involved in the Welfare Conditionality research programme. We also received written evidence from Professor Jane Miller. More information on the session is available [here](#).

Following this, we agreed to seek further information from you on the impact the changes to the welfare benefits system over recent years will have on people in Wales. We are aware that the Welsh Government's Ministerial Task and Finish Group on Welfare Reform has commissioned research into this issue, and that a number of reports have been published. However, as we understand it, the latest report was published in 2014, and we know that there have been further changes since then. We are particularly interested in the impact from the roll-out of Universal Credit.



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Following this session, and having given more thought to the issues raised, I have also written to the UK Government adding our/my voice[s] to those calling for the roll-out of Universal Credit to be paused. A copy of this letter is enclosed. Have you been in dialogue with the UK Government on this issue, and if so, what has been the nature of your discussions?

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The letters are cursive and fluid.

John Griffiths AM
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

