

Julie James AC/AM  
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip  
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-806  
Ein cyf/Our ref JJ/01139/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
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13 December 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 13 November setting out further information on the petition from Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People (P-05-806) regarding access certificates for premises in Wales.

As I indicated in my previous letter of 8 March 2018, I am supportive of the principles behind this proposal and my officials will consider the additional information you have provided in more detail in the New Year. This will include consideration of how we best consult and engage with disabled people and their representatives, including the petitioners, on how such a scheme might be taken forward. Consideration will also be given to whether any funding can be made available for a pilot, potentially as part of our new Framework 'Action on Disability: The Right to Independent Living' which is currently out for consultation until 18th January.

With regards to the concerns you raise about the enforcement of the Equality Act 2010 in relation to the accessibility of premises, I note that you have already written to the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) about this matter. It is the role of the Commission to encourage equality and diversity, eliminate unlawful discrimination, and protect and promote the human rights of everyone in Britain. The Commission uses a range of powers to do so, including providing advice and guidance to individuals, employers and other organisations, reviewing the effectiveness of the law and taking legal enforcement action to clarify the law and address significant breaches of rights.

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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.

The EHRC in Wales has undertaken an extensive review this year of compliance with the public sector equality duty and I understand they will be reporting on their findings in the near future. I have already had discussions about this with the Wales Commissioner, June Milligan, and my officials will be working with the EHRC to consider what further action is needed to strengthen the regulations and improve performance in this area. I have also asked officials to commission wider work to scope a range of options to strengthen the overall equalities and human rights framework in Wales. This will be taken forward as a priority in the New Year and Assembly Members will be kept informed of progress.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Julie James AC/AM**  
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