

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH/05138/19

Janet Finch Saunders
Chair - Petitions committee.
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21 March 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 1 March regarding Petition P-05-806 – call for premises in Wales to be awarded Access Certificates.

I am aware that my predecessor Julie James AM, former Leader of the House and Chief Whip, was supportive of the campaign. Now that it falls within my portfolio, I am also pleased to offer my support to the principles behind this proposal.

Our new Framework, 'Action on Disability: The Right to Independent Living', which has recently been out for consultation, contains a number of commitments around the Social Model of disability, recognising that people with impairments are disabled by barriers that commonly exist in society. These barriers include negative attitudes, and physical and organisational barriers, which can prevent disabled people's inclusion and participation in all walks of life. In principle, the proposal fits well with our commitment to address this and I am keen to explore the issue further.

My officials recently met with representatives of the Bridgend Coalition of Disabled People and Disability Wales to discuss the scheme in more detail. They agreed to work in partnership with Disability Wales to develop a proposal for a scoping study for a potential pilot scheme.

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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 also met recently with the Chief Executive of Disability Wales, Rhian Davies, who provided an update on progress with this work, confirming the proposal will include engagement across a number of groups including disabled people and their representative organisations, as well as the Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Small Businesses.

While I cannot make any commitment to funding at this stage, I am pleased this important piece of work is being taken forward. I have asked my officials to keep me informed of progress and will also ensure the Committee is updated as this work goes forward.

Yours sincerely

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

Jane Hutt AC/AM

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