



Ein cyf/Our ref VG/05723/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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22 March 2019

Dear Janet,

David Rowlands AM, the previous Chair of the Petitions Committee wrote to me on 1 March regarding Petition P-05-842 – Give young people a voice when commissioning local services in Wales.

I note the evidence that has been received from the Children's Commissioner for Wales and her proposal that new duties should be placed on public bodies to follow the requirements of the UNCRC when making decisions and commissioning services.

As the Committee will be aware, there have been numerous calls in recent years for the Welsh Government to undertake legislative action to strengthen and advance equality and human rights in Wales, particularly in the context of the UK's impending exit from the EU. This includes a call for further incorporation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. In response, Ministers have asked officials to scope options to achieve such strengthening, including potentially embedding further UN treaties in Welsh law, as well as stronger regulation, guidance and monitoring. The work will take account of a new commitment by the Welsh Government to commence the socio-economic duty in part one of the Equality Act 2010.

The aim of this would be to consider how such actions would interact with the existing framework provided by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2014. It will also look at whether further integration will improve effectiveness with regard to promoting equality.

The initial phase is linked to the Gender Equality Review and will clarify the conceptual framework for equality as understood within the public sector general and specific duties.


It is intended that Welsh Government will consult on any legislative models to emerge from the research, including with those public bodies which may be affected by proposed new duties. The Welsh Commissioners along with stakeholder representatives will be involved in the consultation process in connection with any identified options which are pursued.

A working group, consisting of key stakeholders, including officials from the Welsh Commissioners' offices, academics and Welsh Government officials is being set up. I will provide the Committee with more details when they are available.

As requested, I will write to public bodies to reminding them that they are expected to follow existing guidance in relation to participation of children in decisions that might affect them.

I hope this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

Vaughan Gething AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services