

Ken Skates AM  
Minister for Economy and Transport  
Welsh Government

8 May 2019

Dear Ken,

Thank you for attending the Committee's meeting on 1 May as part of our inquiry into eligibility and implementation of the blue badge scheme in Wales. During the evidence session, you agreed to provide the following to the Committee:

- further information on the prevalence of abuse in the blue badge scheme in Wales, including details of National Fraud Authority data that indicated 20 per cent of blue badges are being misused across the UK;
- details on local authorities' engagement with the Welsh Government's training workshops and toolkit for blue badge assessments; and
- details on the proportion of system abuse that can be eradicated by the cleansing of invalid badges.

During the meeting, in response to a question on an appeals process for refused blue badge applications, you told us that there is an independent appeals process in place within local authorities. This is in contrast to evidence we received from various stakeholders, Disability Wales told us:

"in the guidance, it actually states that there is no appeal process. So, once a decision's made it is final. But there is room to ask the local authority to reconsider their decision."

This view was echoed by Age Cymru:

"technically, there is no appeals process against a blue badge. There are various types of recourse, but even so, we have had people come to us who have been told they can appeal, and have also been told that there's no point in them appealing because the grounds won't have changed."

Alzheimer's Society Cymru subsequently [wrote to the Committee](#) referring to the Welsh Government's '[Who is eligible for a Blue Badge?](#)' document which states:

"The local authority's decision on eligibility is final. There is no appeals process."



You also stated during the evidence session that “in certain circumstances, individuals can appeal to the Welsh Government as well”, however this seems to contradict with the Welsh Government’s booklet which states:

“The Welsh Government has no power to intervene in the decision making process if an application is rejected.”

In light of this, it would be very helpful if you could provide clarification on these issues, specifically:

- whether the two thirds of local authorities who you say are using an independent appeals process have used this route to determine the outcome of a blue badge application or settle appeals against blue badge decisions; and
- whether the Welsh Government has any role in resolving appeals made by individuals who have had their claim for a blue badge refused, and if so, under what circumstances would this be exercised.

It would be helpful to the Committee if you could provide the additional information referred to during the meeting and clarification on appeals by 24 May in order for Members to consider this as part of our ongoing work on this inquiry.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



John Griffiths AM

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

