

Shan Morgan
Ysgrifennydd Parhaol
Permanent Secretary



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Nick Ramsay, AM
Chair – Public Accounts Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24 October 2019

Dear Mr Ramsay,

SCRUTINY OF ACCOUNTS 2018-19
WELSH GOVERNMENT – GENERAL SCRUTINY OF ACCOUNTS

I write further to the Public Accounts Committee meeting, held on 7th October 2019 at which Jenny Rathbone AM raised a query regarding the underspend associated with the Gypsy & Traveller Site Capital Grant. I promised to respond in writing to guarantee the correct figures and details.

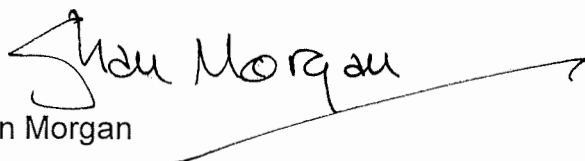
The Gypsy and Traveller Sites Capital Grant provides up to 100% grant funding and can be utilised by all 22 local authorities to develop new Gypsy and Traveller sites, extend existing sites and also refurbish existing sites as identified within their Gypsy Traveller Accommodation Assessments (GTAA's).

There are various reasons why the budget has not been fulfilled as expected. The key reasons are due to planning applications either being delayed or rejected and the identification of suitable locations for new sites.

In April 2019 Welsh Government Officials made the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip aware that some Local Authorities were yet to apply for the Site Capital Grant as forecast following the GTAA's submitted in 2016. The Deputy Minister and Chief Whip consequently wrote to Leaders of those Local Authorities to remind them that the site grant is there to be used before 2021 and encouraging them to draw down on it. The letter also reminded Leaders of the Local Authorities' duties to provide sustainable sites for Gypsies & Travellers.

Officials continue to work closely with all Local Authorities across Wales to ensure they are meeting their targets within their individual GTAA's and to encourage the take up of the Gypsy & Traveller Sites Capital Grant.

Yours sincerely



Shan Morgan