

Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: Wednesday, 7 December
2016

Meeting time: 09.07 – 12.14

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/3840>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	John Griffiths AM (Chair) Gareth Bennett AM Janet Finch–Saunders AM Siân Gwenllïan AM Rhianon Passmore AM Jenny Rathbone AM Joyce Watson AM
Witnesses:	Sian Summers–Rees, City of Sanctuary UK and Ireland and Chair of Asylum Justice Hayley Richards, Oxfam Cymru Elinor Harris, British Red Cross Neil McKittrick, British Red Cross Salah Rasool, Welsh Refugee Council Tracey Sherlock, Welsh Refugee Council
Committee Staff:	Christopher Warner (Clerk)



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	Elizabeth Wilkinson (Second Clerk)
	Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk)
	Osian Bowyer (Researcher)
	Hannah Johnson (Researcher)
	Stephen Davies (Legal Adviser)

Transcript

View the [meeting transcript](#)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1. Apologies were received from Bethan Jenkins AM and Professor Helen Stalford.

2 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: evidence session 1

2.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Sian Summers–Rees, Chief Officer, City of Sanctuary UK and Ireland and Chair of Asylum Justice

2.2. Siân Summers–Rees agreed to provide evidential examples of the quality of accommodation provided by Lynx House.

3 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: evidence session 2

3.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Hayley Richards, Policy and Advocacy Officer, Oxfam
- Neil McKittrick, Refugee Operations Support Manager, British Red Cross

- Elinor Harris, Services Manager for International Family Tracing and Refugee Support, British Red Cross
- Tracey Sherlock, Policy and Communications Manager, Welsh Refugee Council
- Salah Rasool, Advice Caseworker, Welsh Refugee Council

3.2. Hayley Richards, Oxfam, agreed to provide:

- information from colleagues in Oxfam GB in relation to legal challenges for refugees and asylum seekers facing destitution;
- information on the public expenditure saved by the Scottish Government as a result of their guardianship model for unaccompanied minors.

3.3. Neil McKittrick, British Red Cross, agreed to provide information on the public expenditure saved by the Northern Ireland Government's guardianship model.

4 Paper(s) to note

4.1 Correspondence from Adam Price AM to the Chair of Public Accounts Committee in relation to Tai Cantref Housing Association

4.1.a. The Committee noted the correspondence Adam Price AM to the Chair of Public Accounts Committee in relation to Tai Cantref Housing Association.

4.2 Correspondence from the Chair to the Chair of Public Accounts Committee in relation to Tai Cantref Housing Association

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4.3 Correspondence from the Chair of Public Accounts Committee to the Chair in relation to Tai Cantref Housing Association

4.3.a. The Committee noted the correspondence from the Chair of Public Accounts Committee to the Chair in relation to Tai Cantref Housing Association.

4.4 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in relation to the Welsh Government draft budget 2017–18

4.4.a. The Committee noted the correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government in relation to the Welsh Government draft budget 2017–18.

4.5 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children in relation to the Welsh Government draft budget 2017–18

4.5.a. The Committee noted the correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children in relation to the Welsh Government draft budget 2017–18.

4.6 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: note of visit to the African Community Centre, Swansea

4.6.a. The Committee noted the note of its visit to the African Community Centre, Swansea.

4.7 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: note of visit to Oasis and Trinity Centre, Cardiff

4.7.a. The Committee noted the note of its visit to Oasis and Trinity Centre, Cardiff.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

5.1. The Committee agreed the motion.

6 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales: evidence session 3

6.1. The Committee received evidence from a participant from Oxfam Cymru's Sanctuary in Wales Project.

7 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales – consideration of evidence under items 2, 3 and 6

7.1. The Committee discussed the evidence received.

8 Consideration of forward work programme

8.1. The Committee agreed to consider and discuss matters relating to its forward work programme outside of committee.