

# Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date: Wednesday, 29 March  
2017

Meeting time: 09.00 – 12.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/3853>

## Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	John Griffiths AM (Chair) Gareth Bennett AM Janet Finch–Saunders AM David Melding AM (In place of Janet Finch–Saunders AM) Siân Gwenllïan AM Bethan Jenkins AM Rhianon Passmore AM Jenny Rathbone AM Joyce Watson AM
Witnesses:	Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance Claire Bennett, Deputy Director, Transport Policy, Planning and Partnerships, Welsh Government Lisa James, Welsh Government Carl Sargeant AM John Rees, Welsh Government



Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales

	Katie Wilson, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Christopher Warner (Clerk) Naomi Stocks (Clerk) Elizabeth Wilkinson (Second Clerk) Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk)

## Transcript

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## 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Members and members of the public to the meeting.
- 1.2. David Melding AM substituted for Janet Finch–Saunders AM on items 3 and 6.
- 1.3. The following Members declared relevant interests as members of unions:
  - John Griffiths AM;
  - Jenny Rathbone AM;
  - Joyce Watson AM;
  - Rhianon Passmore AM;
  - Siân Gwenllïan AM.

## 2 Scrutiny of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Local Government reform

- 2.1. The Committee received evidence from:
  - Mark Drakeford AM, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government
  - Claire Bennett, Deputy Director, Local Government Transformation & Partnerships
  - Lisa James, Deputy Director, Local Government Democracy

### **3 Abolition of Right to Buy and Associated Rights (Wales) Bill – evidence session 1: Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children**

2.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Carl Sargeant AM, Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children
- John G Rees, Bill Manager
- Katie Wilson, Lawyer

2.2. During the session the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children agreed:

- To provide the figures on any increase in social housing stock in local authority areas where the Right to Buy and Right to Acquire have been temporarily suspended under the Housing (Wales) Measure 2011;
- To provide a note on the procedure and eligibility criteria for applications for temporary suspensions under the Housing (Wales) Measure 2011;
- To provide a draft of the document containing information for tenants and prospective tenants required under section 8 of the Bill;
- To clarify the purpose and intended effect of section 2 and 4 of the Bill.

## **4 Papers to note**

### **4.1 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children in relation to the Abolition of the Right to Buy and Associated Rights (Wales) Bill**

4.1.a The Committee noted the correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children in relation to the Abolition of the Right to Buy and Associated Rights (Wales) Bill.

### **4.2 Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to the Chair of Finance Committee in relation to the Trade Union (Wales) Bill**

4.2.a The Committee noted the letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government to the Chair of Finance Committee in relation to the Trade Union (Wales) Bill.

### **4.3 Additional information from the Future Generations Commissioner following the evidence session on 2 February 2017**

4.3.a The Committee noted the Additional information from the Future Generations Commissioner following the evidence session on 2 February 2017

#### **4.4 Additional information from the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership in relation to refugees and asylum seekers in Wales**

4.4.a The Committee noted the additional information from the Wales Strategic Migration Partnership in relation to refugees and asylum seekers in Wales.

#### **4.5 Report by the National Youth Advocacy Service: Children Services six monthly Narrative Report**

4.5.a The Committee noted the report by the National Youth Advocacy Service: Children Services six monthly Narrative Report.

#### **4.6 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure in relation to poverty in Wales**

4.6.a The Committee noted the correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure in relation to poverty in Wales.

#### **4.7 Correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children in relation to poverty in Wales**

4.7.a The Committee noted the correspondence from the Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children in relation to poverty in Wales.

#### **4.8 Note of focus group discussions in relation to the Trade Union (Wales) Bill**

4.8.a The Committee noted the note of focus group discussions in relation to the Trade Union (Wales) Bill.

### **5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**

5.1 The Committee agreed the motion.

### **6 Abolition of the Right to Buy and Associated Rights (Wales) Bill: consideration of evidence received under item 3**

6.1. The Committee discussed the evidence received under item 3 and agreed to write to the Cabinet Secretary on matters raised during the session.

## **7 Scrutiny of the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government – Local Government reform: consideration of evidence received under item 2**

7.1. The Committee discussed the evidence received under item 2.

## **8 Trade Union (Wales) Bill – consideration of draft report**

8.1. The Committee considered and agreed its draft report, subject to minor changes.

## **9 Inquiry into refugees and asylum seekers in Wales – consideration of draft report**

9.1. The Committee considered and agreed its draft report, subject to minor changes.