

Jane Hutt, MS  
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

21 October 2020

Dear Jane

Many thanks for giving evidence to the Committee on 12 October. We agreed to write to you on some outstanding issues.

### **COVID-9 Reconstruction: Challenges and priorities**

One of the issues we explored was your engagement with the Older People's Commissioner for Wales about the significant equality and human rights impacts of the pandemic on older people. While we acknowledge that the main policy aspects of supporting older people during the pandemic sits primarily with the Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services portfolio, there have been significant concerns about the impact on older people's human rights. This was raised by the Older People's Commissioner, Age Cymru, other stakeholder groups in our work earlier this year, and subsequently highlighted in our recent report on the pandemic and inequalities.

We share the concerns raised by the Older People's Commissioner, Age Cymru and others that 'COVID-19 reconstruction: Challenges and priorities' report does not cover the role older people can play in the recovery. It was not clear from your responses in Committee whether this was an oversight by the Government, or whether the report's



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remit did not cover this. Can you clarify if it was an oversight, and if so how it will be rectified?

Further to our evidence session, we have now received correspondence from the Older People's Commissioner, which is enclosed.

### **Public sector equality duties**


We also explored the impact of the public sector equality duties, and concerns about the duties not being adhered to by all organisations. In responding to our questions you talked about the importance of ensuring that it goes beyond a "tick box" exercise. What is the Welsh Government doing to make sure public bodies are adhering to the duties? (We acknowledge that enforcement of duties is the responsibility of the EHRC). How are you ensuring that senior managers and leaders within public bodies understand the duty and ensure full compliance throughout their organisations?

We understand that the pandemic has delayed the review of the public sector equality duties, and that this is beyond the Government's control. However, do you know when this important review will be completed?

### **Sustainable funding for the VAWDASV sector**

During the meeting you gave a commitment to provide us with a date for the completion of the sustainable funding model for this sector. As you are aware, this has been an issue that we have had long-standing concerns about. Please can you confirm when this will be completed?

Yours sincerely



John Griffiths

Chair, Equality, Local Government and  
Communities Committee



Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

