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Y Gweinidog dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol a Llywodraeth
Leol
Minister for Social Justice and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/CS/0285/10

Chief Executives
County and County Borough Councils in Wales

Cc Ann Jones AM (Chair, Equality of Opportunity Committee)
Daniel Hurford (WLGA)
Kay Jenkins (Electoral Commission)
Phil Johnson (Association of Electoral Administrators)
Richard Hawkes (Chief Executive, Scope)

29 September 2010

Accessibility of Polling Stations

Local authorities are required, through the provisions of section 16 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, to keep their polling places under review and the rules for conducting such reviews includes the need to ensure that, as far as possible, every polling place is accessible to disabled people. The first such review was required in 2007 and the next is due in 2011. You will be well aware of the number of polls which are due to take place in 2011 and 2012, so I would urge you to arrange for that review to take place by early next year 2011, before the first such poll.

When Scope published their Polls Apart report for Wales for the general election of 2010, they concluded that 67% of polling stations were inaccessible in some way. I would be obliged if, following your review, you provided me with an assessment of the accessibility of your intended polling stations for the forthcoming polls. Within this assessment, I would ask you to comment on the extent to which your authority has engaged with local access groups in relation to this.

Yours sincerely

Carl Sargeant AM/AC

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Printed on 100% recycled paper

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)