

**Date:** 16 July 2003  
**Venue:** Committee Rooms 3&4, National Assembly for Wales  
**Title:** Welsh Assembly Government Response to the Victoria Climbié Inquiry Report

## **Purpose**

On 28 January 2003 the Report of the Victoria Climbié Inquiry, chaired by Lord Laming, was published.

This paper is to provide members' with an update of the Welsh Assembly Government's development of a response to the Report's recommendations. The response itself will be the subject of a statement in the next session.

## **Summary**

1. The Inquiry report addresses concerns about child protection procedures in England and the majority of the recommendations relate to policy and practice there. However, the Welsh Assembly Government recognises that many of the recommendations are relevant to child protection in Wales and has, therefore, also considered Lord Laming's recommendations for social and health services.
2. At its meeting on 3 February 2003, the Cabinet Sub-Committee on Children and Young People agreed that the Welsh Assembly Government should formally respond to Lord Laming's report. Our response, dealing with the specific recommendations in Lord Lamings Report in relation to Child Protection Services will be the subject of a detailed paper in the autumn.
3. All Local Authorities and all health bodies in Wales were written to on 26 March enclosing a checklist of the Report's practice recommendations and were asked to respond by the end of May on what action they had or were taking to ensure that these recommendations were implemented. To date, 28 responses have been received, although late replies continue to be received.
4. In general, agencies have welcomed these good practice recommendations and the majority has already adopted working practices that are in line with the recommendations. Where working practices do not reflect the recommendations, agencies are, for the most part, reviewing existing practice and taking steps to amend procedures so that they reflect the objectives of the recommendations. All of the responses received will be considered and, in consultation with partner agencies, problem areas will be addressed.
5. In addition the Chief Inspector of the Social Services Inspectorate for Wales (SSIW) has issued an audit framework and an electronic audit tool to all local authorities in Wales to assist them in auditing their position against the good practice recommendations. SSIW will validate the evidence gathered from the audit and will use the audit to assess whether authorities need additional assistance to improve their services.

**Action:**

6. The Committee is invited to note the contents of this paper. A detailed statement of the Government's response to the Laming Report will follow in the autumn.

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