

# **Committee on the Government of Wales Bill**

**GWB(2)-07-06 (p4)**

**Date: 6 March 2006**

**Venue: National Assembly, Cardiff Bay**

**Title: Letter from Gwenda Thomas AM, Chair of the Equality of Opportunity Committee**

## **Purpose**

1. To consider a letter (at Annex 1) from Gwenda Thomas AM, Chair of the Equality of Opportunity Committee about the equality aspects of the Government of Wales Bill.

## **Background**

2. In her letter, the Chair says the Committee has welcomed the equality duties contained in the Bill but questioned the extent to which the Bill has been subject to an equality impact assessment. She is seeking assurances on this point from the Secretary of State but asks that the Committee have due regard to the need for such an assessment in its consideration of the Bill.

## **Action**

3. Although the Committee has now finished its consideration of individual clauses in the Bill, the Committee may nevertheless wish to consider the letter, and in particular, whether it supports the views of the Equality of Opportunity Committee.

## **Committee Service**

March 2006

## **Annex 1**

The Rt Hon The Lord Dafydd Elis Thomas  
Chair  
Government of Wales Bill Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

28 February 2006

Annwyl Dafydd

## **Equality Aspects Of The Government Of Wales Bill**

I am writing to you as Chair of the Government of Wales Bill Committee on behalf of the Equality of Opportunity Committee regarding equality aspects of the Government of Wales Bill.

The Committee very much welcomes the equality duties that are contained in the Bill and looks forward to engaging with the process of deciding future Standing Orders that will define how the Assembly will ensure those equality duties are being discharged.

Members of the Committee have however questioned the extent to which the Bill itself has been subjected to equality impact assessment. I have written separately to the Secretary of State asking for assurances on this. The Committee did however believe, in accordance with the Assembly's responsibilities under Sections 48 and 120 of the existing Government of Wales Act, that your Committee should also have regard for need for an equality impact assessment of the Bill. I would therefore be grateful for your assurance that in considering the Bill, the Government of Wales Bill Committee will have due regard to the need for a full equality impact assessment to be undertaken.

I look forward to your response on this matter.

Yn ddiffuant,

Gwenda Thomas AM

**Chair - Equality Of Opportunity Committee**