

# Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

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Lleoliad:	I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a:
Fideogynhadledd drwy Zoom	Rhys Morgan
Dyddiad: Dydd Llun, 20 Medi 2021	Clerc y Pwyllgor
Amser: 13.15	0300 200 6565
	<a href="mailto:SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru">SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru</a>

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Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 34.19, penderfynodd y Cadeirydd y caiff y cyhoedd eu gwahardd rhag bod yn bresennol yng nghyfarfod y Pwyllgor er mwyn diogelu iechyd y cyhoedd. Caiff y cyfarfod hwn ei ddarlledu'n fyw ar [www.senedd.tv](http://www.senedd.tv)

## Rhag-gyfarfod preifat

(13.15 – 13.30)

### 1 Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau a dirprwyon

(13.30)

### 2 Sesiwn graffu gyda'r Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

(13.30 – 15.00)

(Tudalennau 1 – 21)

Janes Hutt AS, Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

Claire Bennett – Cyfarwyddwr, Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi

Jo Salway – Cyfarwyddwr, y Bartneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Gwaith Teg

## Egwyl

(15.00 – 15.15)

### 3 Dyled a'r pandemig – Sefydliadau cyngori

(15.15 – 16.00)

(Tudalennau 22 – 55)

Gwennan Hardy, Uwch-swyddog Polisi, Cyngor ar Bopeth

Peter Tutton, Pennaeth Polisi, Ymchwil a Materion Cyhoeddus, StepChange

Jason Roberts, Cyngorwr Dyled, Canolfan Gyfraith Speakeasy



## **4 Papurau i'w nodi**

(16.00 – 16.15)

- 4.1 Adroddiad Gwaddol Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau y Bumed Senedd, Mawrth 2021**  
(Tudalennau 56 – 79)
- 4.2 Gohebiaeth gan Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru at y Cadeirydd ynghylch gwaith Archwilio Cymru – 9 Gorffennaf 2021**  
(Tudalennau 80 – 81)
- 4.3 Gohebiaeth gan y Llywydd at y Cadeirydd ynghylch amserlen y pwyllgorau – 14 Gorffennaf 2021**  
(Tudalennau 82 – 84)
- 4.4 Gohebiaeth gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid at Gadeiryddion pob Pwyllgor ynglŷn â Chyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru – 16 Gorffennaf 2021**  
(Tudalennau 85 – 88)
- 4.5 Adroddiad Gweithdy Cwsmeriaid Bregus Dŵr Cymru – 25 Mawrth 2021**  
(Tudalennau 89 – 96)
- 4.6 Gohebiaeth gan Gwenith Price, Dirprwy Gomisiynydd y Gymraeg at y Cadeirydd ynghylch ystyried y Gymraeg yng ngwaith y Pwyllgor – 19 Gorffennaf 2021**  
(Tudalennau 97 – 98)
- 4.7 Gohebiaeth gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg at Gadeiryddion Pwyllgorau ynghylch blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd – 20 Gorffennaf 2021**  
(Tudalennau 99 – 100)
- 4.8 Gohebiaeth gan Gyfarwyddwr RNIB Cymru at Aelodau'r Pwyllgor ynghylch ymchwil ddiweddaraf RNIB i brofiadau pleidleisio pobl ddall a rhannol ddall – 23 Gorffennaf 2021**  
(Tudalennau 101 – 127)
- 4.9 Gohebiaeth gan Victoria Winkler, Cyfarwyddwr, Sefydliad Bevan at y Cadeirydd ynghylch tlodi plant a diogelu hawliau mudwyr – 23 Gorffennaf 2021**  
(Tudalennau 128 – 129)

- 4.10 Gohebiaeth gan yr Ysgrifennydd Gwladol dros Waith a Phensiynau at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Gwaith a Phensiynau ynghylch codi credyd cynhwysol – 5 Awst 2021**  
(Tudalennau 130 – 132)
- 4.11 Gohebiaeth gan Altaf Hussain AS at y Cadeirydd ynghylch yr heriau y mae pobl sy'n colli eu golwg yn eu hwynebu bob dydd yng Nghymru – 11 Awst 2021**  
(Tudalennau 133 – 135)
- 4.12 Gohebiaeth gan Pippa Cotterill, Pennaeth Swyddfa Cymru, Coleg Brenhinol Therapyddion Lleferydd ac Iaith Cymru at y Cadeirydd ynghylch anghenion pobl ifanc yn yr ystâd cyfiawnder ieuencid o ran lleferydd, iaith a chyfathrebu – 1 Medi 2021**  
(Tudalennau 136 – 137)
- 4.13 Gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol ynghylch yr argyfwng dyngarol yn Affganistan – 10 Medi 2021**  
(Tudalennau 138 – 142)
- 5 Motion under SO17.42(ix) to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**  
(16.15)
- 6 Ystyried y dystiolaeth – sesiwn graffu gyda'r Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**  
(16.15 – 16.30)
- 7 Trafod y dystiolaeth – sefydliadau sy'n rhoi cyngor ynghylch dyledion**  
(16.30 – 16.45)
- 8 Ystyried papur cwmpasu ar ofal plant a chyflogaeth rhieni**  
(16.45 – 17.00) (Tudalennau 143 – 153)

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

## Y PWYLLGOR CYDRADDOLDEB A CHYFIAWNDER CYMDEITHASOL – 20 MEDI 2021

### PAPUR TYSTIOLAETH

Mae'r papur tystiolaeth hwn yn nodi fy mlaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd. Mae hefyd yn nodi sut rwy'n bwriadu mynd ati i weithio gyda fy nghydweithwyr yn y Cabinet ar y materion trawsbynciol yn fy mhortffolio.

### Mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau a chyflawni amcanion Cynllun Cydraddoldeb Strategol 2020-24

Mae cryfhau a hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol wedi bod yn ffocws canolog i bob Llywodraeth Cymru ers dechrau'r broses ddatganoli. Mae'r llywodraeth hon yn fwy penderfynol nag erioed i greu Cymru fwy teg a chyfartal, a bydd yn canolbwyntio ar wneud hynny.

Tynnodd COVID-19 sylw at anghydraddoldebau sydd wedi'u gwreiddio'n ddwfn a welir o hyd yn ein cymdeithas. Mae'r anghydraddoldebau hyn wedi cael eu hystyried a'u trafod ymhellach mewn adroddiadau pwerus gan Is-grŵp Economaidd-gymdeithasol Grŵp Cynghorol Pobl Dduon ac Asiaidd a Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig y Prif Weinidog ar COVID-19 a'r Fforwm Cydraddoldeb i Bobl Anabl.

Mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi nodi'n glir iawn bod cydraddoldeb yn ganolog i'r penderfyniadau a wnawn, a chaiff nodau hirdymor Cynllun Gweithredu Cydraddoldeb Strategol 2020-2024 eu cyflawni drwy'r Cynlluniau Gweithredu Cydraddoldeb Hiliol, Cydraddoldeb Rhywiol a Chydraddoldeb LHDTTC+ sy'n sail iddo a'n hymateb i [Adroddiad Drws ar Glo](#) (a'r broses o sefydlu Tasglu Anabledd a arweinir gan y Gweinidogion). Arweiniodd yr argymhellion yn [Adroddiad Is-grŵp Economaidd-gymdeithasol Pobl Dduon ac Asiaidd a Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig COVID-19](#) at lunio'r [Cynllun Gweithredu Cydraddoldeb Hiliol: Cymru Wrth-hiliol](#).

Ar 26 Awst, cyhoeddwyd [adroddiad ymchwil ar gryfhau a hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol yng Nghymru](#). Comisiynwyd y gwaith ymchwil arwyddocaol hwn fel rhan o ymrwymiad Llywodraeth Cymru i ddatblygu dull gweithredu clir yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod cydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol yn cael eu hystyried a'u diogelu'n llawn. Mae canfyddiadau'r gwaith ymchwil yn nodi dulliau o gryfhau a hyrwyddo cydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol yng Nghymru, ac mae'r adroddiad yn cynnwys 40 o argymhellion ar gyfer diwygiadau i ddeddfwriaeth, polisi a chanllawiau, ymhlith eraill. Mae pob argymhelliad yn cynnwys camau manwl tuag at gyflawni'r prif argymhelliad.

Yn gynnar yn y tymor newydd, byddaf yn cyfarfod â chyd-Weinidogion i ystyried sut y gellid integreiddio'r argymhellion yn y gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo ar hyn o bryd a'r gwaith a fydd yn mynd rhagddo yn y dyfodol. Mae camau pwysig eisoes wedi'u cymryd yn hyn o beth. Mae ein Rhaglen Lywodraethu yn nodi ein ymrwymiad i ymgorffori Confensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Ddileu Pob Math o Wahaniaethu yn erbyn Menywod a Chonfensiwn y Cenhedloedd Unedig ar Hawliau Pobl Anabl yng nghyfraith Cymru. Yn ogystal, mae'r Ddyletswydd Economaidd-gymdeithasol, a ddaeth i rym yng Nghymru ym mis Mawrth 2021, yn cynnig ffordd allweddol o helpu Cymru i adfer yn sgil effaith COVID-19.

Mae'r Rhaglen Lywodraethu yn cynnwys ymrwymiad i sefydlu Uned Gwahaniaethau ar sail Hil, ochr yn ochr ag Uned Data Cydraddoldeb, er mwyn darparu gallu dadansodol a pholisi i hyrwyddo newidiadau gwirioneddol a fydd yn mynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau ar sail

tystiolaeth yng Nghymru. Byddaf hefyd yn sefydlu Uned Gwahaniaethau ar sail Anabledd. Mae fy swyddogion wedi bod yn gweithio gyda rhanddeiliaid i feithrin dealltwriaeth o flaenoriaethau ar gyfer yr Unedau ar ôl iddynt gael eu sefydlu, a bydd y gwaith hwnnw'n parhau.

### **Trechu tlodi, gwneud y gorau o incwm a chyngor ar fudd-daliadau**

Mae trechu tlodi yn flaenoriaeth o hyd. Drwy'r Rhaglen Lywodraethu, rydym wedi nodi ein hymrwymiad i wella canlyniadau ar gyfer aelwydydd incwm isel. Mae hyn yn cynnwys parhau i gefnogi ein rhaglen flaenllaw Dechrau'n Deg; ymrwymiad i adolygu meini prawf cymhwysedd ar gyfer prydau ysgol am ddim; a chyllid ychwanegol ar gyfer gofal plant pan fo rhieni mewn addysg a hyfforddiant, ymhlith pethau eraill.

Rwy'n ymrwymedig i ddatblygu'r agenda hon ac yn bwriadu defnyddio pob dull ysgogi sydd ar gael i mi i gyflwyno newid. Rwy'n parhau i gyfarfod â chyd-Weinidogion i drafod cyfleoedd i flaenoriaethu'r gwaith o drechu tlodi wrth ddatblygu a chyflawni ymrwymiadau'r Rhaglen Lywodraethu, ac o fewn eu polisïau a'u hystyriaethau wrth ddarparu gwasanaethau. Sicrheir hefyd fod tlodi yn ganolog i'r broses o gynllunio'r gyllideb (gan gysylltu â gofynion y Ddyletswydd Economaidd-gymdeithasol). Bydd hyn yn helpu i sicrhau bod portffolios ym mhob rhan o'r llywodraeth yn blaenoriaethu'r pethau hynny sy'n cyfrannu at fynd i'r afael ag anghydraddoldebau a gwella canlyniadau ar gyfer aelwydydd incwm isel.

Bydd y trafodaethau hyn yn canolbwyntio ar dystiolaeth o'r hyn sy'n helpu i drechu tlodi. Byddant yn ystyried yr argymhellion sy'n deillio o'r adolygiad o Dlodi Plant er mwyn sicrhau bod rhaglenni a ariennir gan Lywodraeth Cymru yn cael yr effaith fwyaf posibl ar fywydau plant sy'n byw mewn tlodi. Byddant hefyd yn cael eu hategu gan ganfyddiadau'r gwaith ymchwil a dadansoddi sy'n cael ei gynnal ar hyn o bryd gan Ganolfan Polisi Cyhoeddus Cymru ar y gwaith o drechu tlodi yng Nghymru. Mae'r gwaith hwn yn ystyried strategaethau rhyngwladol i liniaru tlodi a rhaglenni a pholisïau effeithiol i leihau tlodi.

Yn ogystal, drwy gydol yr haf, bûm yn cyfarfod ac yn ymgysylltu â rhaglenni trechu tlodi allweddol, rhanddeiliaid a'r rhai sydd â phrofiad uniongyrchol er mwyn cael dealltwriaeth o'r cyfleoedd a'r heriau, er enghraifft Comisiwn y Gwir am Dlodi yn Abertawe a'r Gynghrair Gwrth-dlodi. Gyda'i gilydd, bydd y gwaith dadansoddi hwn yn helpu i lywio'r broses o gynllunio camau gweithredu yng Nghymru yn y dyfodol a'u rhoi ar waith.

Ers dechrau'r pandemig, rydym wedi canolbwyntio ar gynyddu incwm aelwydydd, lleihau costau byw hanfodol a meithrin gwydnwch ariannol ("gwneud y gorau o incwm"). Mae [adroddiad cynnydd Tlodi Plant – Cynllun Gweithredu Pwyslais ar Incwm](#) yn crynhoi canlyniadau nifer o raglenni peilot. Mae'r adroddiad yn dangos bod cynnydd cadarnhaol wedi'i wneud mewn nifer o feysydd allweddol, a byddwn yn mynd ati nawr i adeiladu ar y gwaith hwnnw.

Mae cyflwyno'r Gronfa Gyngori Sengl ym mis Ionawr 2020 wedi sicrhau bod Llywodraeth Cymru yn rhoi cyllid grant i wasanaethau cyngor integredig a chosteffeithiol sydd wedi'u cynllunio'n strategol ac sy'n helpu i ateb y galw cynyddol am wasanaethau cyngor. Mae'r gwasanaethau cyngor ar fudd-daliadau a ddarperir drwy'r Gronfa yn amhrisiadwy o ran helpu pobl i ddefnyddio'r system budd-daliadau er mwyn meithrin dealltwriaeth o'r hyn y gallant fod yn gymwys i'w gael a sut i hawlio. Cynigir 'gwiriad o'r hawl i fudd-daliadau lles' i bawb sy'n defnyddio gwasanaethau'r Gronfa, ni waeth pa broblem a nodir ganddynt pan

fyddant yn cysylltu â'r Gronfa am gymorth e.e. tai, problem yn ymwneud â chyflogaeth ac ati. Yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf, rhoddodd gwasanaethau cyngor ar fudd-daliadau'r Gronfa gymorth i bobl hawlio dros £40 miliwn o incwm ychwanegol drwy fudd-daliadau lles.

Yn ystod mis Mawrth 2021, cynhaliwyd yr ymgyrch genedlaethol gyntaf yng Nghymru i sicrhau bod pobl yn manteisio ar fudd-daliadau. Yn sgil yr ymgyrch honno, hawliwyd gwerth £651,504 o fudd-daliadau ychwanegol gan y rhai sydd â hawl i gael budd-daliadau. Byddwn yn adeiladu ar lwyddiant yr ymgyrch hon ac yn cynnal ymgyrch genedlaethol arall yn ystod yr hydref. Rhwng mis Hydref 2020 a mis Mawrth 2021, cynhaliwyd chwe chynllun peilot Profi a Dysgu hefyd a ddefnyddiodd negeseuon a chymorth penodol i annog grwpiau sydd lleiaf tebygol o fod yn hawlio'r holl gymorth ariannol y mae ganddynt yr hawl i'w gael i fanteisio ar fudd-daliadau. Ymgysylltodd y cynlluniau peilot â 1,440 o aelwydydd, gan roi cyngor a chymorth i ddatrys mwy na 6,800 o broblemau. Rhoddodd y cynlluniau peilot gymorth i'r aelwydydd hyn hawlio gwerth £2,468,052 o incwm ychwanegol. Bydd dyraniad cyllid ychwanegol o'r cronfeydd COVID yn galluogi'r prosiectau i weithredu ar yr un lefel drwy gydol y flwyddyn ariannol hon.

Ym mis Mai 2021, aethom ati i ddatblygu a chyhoeddi [Arweinyfr Arferion Gorau](#), ar y cyd ag awdurdodau lleol. Mae'r arweinyfr hwn yn crynhoi'r 'hyn sy'n gweithio' o ran helpu i symleiddio'r broses o wneud cais am fudd-daliadau datganoledig, gan eu gwneud yn fwy hygyrch i bobl y mae angen y cymorth hwn arnynt.

### **Materion sy'n gysylltiedig â dyledion**

Croesawodd Llywodraeth Cymru benderfyniad Llywodraeth y DU i drosglwyddo cyfran o Ardoll Ariannol y DU, gan fod hyn wedi galluogi gwasanaethau cyngor ar ddyledion yng Nghymru i gael eu hintegreiddio ochr yn ochr â gwasanaethau cyngor eraill ar les cymdeithasol a gomisiynir gennym yn y Gronfa Gyngori Sengl. Mae ein cyfran o'r ardoll wedi cynyddu o flwyddyn i flwyddyn. Yn 2019-20, cawsom gyfran o £2.45m; yn 2020-21, derbyniwyd £3.4m ac yn 2021-22 cawsom ychydig dros £4m.

Yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol ddiwethaf, rhoddodd gwasanaethau cyngor ar ddyledion a ddarparwyd drwy'r Gronfa gymorth i dros 18,000 o aelwydydd i reoli dros £8 miliwn o ddyledion problemus ac, yn bwysicach oll, i sicrhau bod eu sefyllfa ariannol yn fwy cynaliadwy.

Mae COVID-19 wedi rhoi straen enfawr ar gyllid aelwydydd ledled Cymru ac mae llawer o bobl wedi'i chael hi'n anodd talu'r dyledion yr aethpwyd iddynt yn ystod y pandemig. Rydym wedi sefydlu Tasglu Dyledion sy'n cynnwys partneriaid mewnol ac allanol allweddol. Gofynnwyd i'r Grŵp argymell mentrau a pholisïau a fydd yn helpu pobl ledled Cymru sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd ymdopi â'u hymrwymadau ariannol i ad-dalu eu dyledion mewn ffordd fforddiadwy, gan osgoi camau gorfodi a chynnig llwybrau cynaliadwy allan o ddyled.

Bu swyddogion yn gweithio'n agos gyda Thrysorlys EM wrth i bolisi Llywodraeth y DU ar gyfer 'cynllun seibiant dyled' gael ei ddatblygu. Cyflwynwyd rhan gyntaf y cynllun, Lle i Anadlu, ym mis Mai 2021 ac, erbyn hyn, gall pobl yng Nghymru sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd talu eu dyledion gael diogelwch cyfreithiol a fydd yn atal credydwy'r rhag cynyddu eu dyled a chymryd camau gorfodi. Bydd swyddogion yn parhau i weithio gyda Thrysorlys EM i sicrhau bod ail ran y rhaglen, y Cynllun Ad-dalu Dyledion Statudol, yn diwallu anghenion penodol pobl yng Nghymru sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd talu dyledion problemus oherwydd y pandemig.

## **Cynllun peilot Incwm Sylfaenol**

Rydym yn datblygu opsiynau ar gyfer cynllun peilot Incwm Sylfaenol i bobl sy'n gadael gofal, ac yn canolbwyntio ar sut y gallai'r cynllun peilot gael ei gynllunio i gefnogi'r rhai sydd â'r angen mwyaf. Mae llawer o waith cymhleth iawn i'w wneud i gynllunio'r cynllun peilot a phenderfynu sut y caiff ei roi ar waith a'i fesur. Mae'n bwysig bod hyn yn cael ei wneud yn iawn. Mae Grŵp Llywio a Grŵp Gweithredol wedi cael eu sefydlu i sicrhau y caiff dull gweithredu trawslywodraethol ei fabwysiadu. Mae grŵp monitro a gwerthuso mewnol wedi'i sefydlu hefyd i lunio fframwaith Canlyniadau a Gwerthuso manwl a fydd yn cyd-fynd â'r gwaith o ddatblygu'r cynllun peilot. Rydym wedi ymgysylltu â gwledydd sydd wedi treialu ffyrdd o fynd i'r afael ag incwm sylfaenol er mwyn dysgu gwersi ac ymgorffori'r gwersi hyn yn y cynllun peilot arfaethedig. Fel rhan o'r broses, byddwn yn gwrando ar randdeiliaid ac arbenigwyr allweddol wrth inni adeiladu'r model, ac i gyfrannu at y gwaith parhaus o ddatblygu a gwerthuso'r gwaith hwn. Mae fy swyddogion wrthi'n modelu nifer o opsiynau ar gyfer y cynllun peilot, a fydd yn caniatáu inni wneud penderfyniad ar sail gwybodaeth ynghylch yr hyn y gellir ei gyflawni o ran dichonoldeb a fforddiadwyedd. Byddaf yn cyfarfod â swyddogion yn fuan pan fyddant yn rhoi gwybodaeth i'r Prif Weinidog a minnau am y cynnydd a wnaed hyd yma. Rwy'n gobeithio y gallaf roi mwy o fanylion i chi cyn hir ynghylch y ffordd y caiff y cynllun peilot ei roi ar waith a'i fesur.

## **Y Comisiwn Gwaith Teg**

Rydym yn defnyddio ein pwerau, ein dulliau ysgogi polisi a'n dylanwad i roi argymhellion y Comisiwn Gwaith Teg ar waith. Gwnaethom sefydlu'r Fforwm Gwaith Teg Gofal Cymdeithasol a'i weithgorau cysylltiedig gyda'r nod o wella amodau gwaith ym maes gofal cymdeithasol ac rydym yn defnyddio'r Fforwm i lywio'r ffordd rydym yn cyflawni ein hymrwymiad i dalu'r Cyflog Byw Gwirioneddol i weithwyr gofal cymdeithasol.

Mae iechyd a diogelwch yn y gweithle wedi newid mewn ffordd radical yn sgil COVID-19, a gwnaethom ymateb i hyn drwy greu'r Fforwm Iechyd a Diogelwch cenedlaethol. Mae'r Fforwm hwn wedi dwyn ynghyd undebau llafur, y prif gyrff cyflogi a'r rhai sy'n gyfrifol am waith gorfodi i rannu eu gwaith a'u profiadau cyfunol o helpu i gadw gweithleoedd yn ddiogel. Rydym wedi dod ynghyd â'n partneriaid cymdeithasol i gynnal ymgyrchoedd i wella gwybodaeth a meithrin dealltwriaeth o hawliau a chyfrifoldebau yn y gweithle, gan gynnwys mewn perthynas ag Iechyd a Diogelwch.

Gan weithio ym mhob rhan o Lywodraeth Cymru, rydym yn defnyddio dulliau ysgogi fel y Contract Economaidd a'r Cod Ymarfer ar Gyflogaeth Foesebol mewn Cadwyni Cyflenwi i annog arferion gwaith tecach, ac rydym wedi ffurfio partneriaeth â Cynnal Cymru, sef corff achredu'r Cyflog Byw yng Nghymru, i'w helpu i hyrwyddo'r Cyflog Byw Gwirioneddol ac annog mwy o gyflogwyr i'w fabwysiadu. Yn ogystal, rydym yn cymryd camau i ddatblygu'r achos dros waith teg a'i fanteision i weithwyr, cyflogwyr a'r gymdeithas ehangach a'i rannu, ac rydym yn ymgysylltu â phartneriaid cymdeithasol mewn ymdrech i hyrwyddo gwaith teg a rhannu arferion gorau.

Rydym yn cryfhau'r dull partneriaeth gymdeithasol fel ffordd allweddol o sicrhau bod gweithleoedd yn fannau tecach, gwell a mwy diogel i bawb. Rydym eisoes wedi cyhoeddi y byddwn yn cyflwyno'r Bil Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus yn fuan. Bydd y



Bil, os caiff ei basio, yn cyflwyno partneriaeth gymdeithasol newydd, prosesau caffael cymdeithasol gyfrifol a dyletswyddau gwaith teg.

Yn olaf, yn unol ag argymhellion y Comisiwn Gwaith Teg i ddylanwadu ar feysydd annatganoledig, rydym yn parhau i alw ar Lywodraeth y DU i gyflwyno'r Bil Cyflogaeth a addawyd ganddi ac i ddarparu adnoddau ychwanegol ar gyfer gwaith gorfodi, fel bod gan weithwyr yr hawliau a'r diogelwch statudol y maent yn eu haeddu.

## **Cyfiawnder Troseddol**

Rydym yn awyddus i blismona a'r system cyfiawnder troseddol ehangach gael eu datganoli. Mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi ysgrifennu at Lywodraeth y DU yn gofyn am drafodaethau ynghylch argymhellion Comisiwn Thomas. Fodd bynnag, tra bo cyfiawnder troseddol yn faes a gedwir yn ôl, byddwn yn gwneud popeth o fewn ein gallu yn y meysydd rydym yn gyfrifol amdanynt i gefnogi gweithrediad effeithiol y system. Rydym hefyd yn gweithio gyda Chomisiynwyr yr Heddlu a Throseddu, heddluoedd Cymru a'r Heddlu Trafnidiaeth Prydeinig i gyflawni, yn ystod y flwyddyn ariannol hon, ymrwymiadau'r Rhaglen Lywodraethu i barhau i ariannu 500 o Swyddogion Cymorth Cymunedol yr Heddlu ac ariannu 100 o swyddogion ychwanegol.

Drwy gydol yr argyfwng iechyd y cyhoedd, rydym wedi gweithio'n agos gyda Gwasanaeth Carchardai a Phrawf EM, y Gwasanaeth Ieuencid yn y Ddalfa, y Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder, GIG Cymru ac Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru i reoli brigiadau o achosion a lliniaru effaith y feirws, gan gydbwyso anghenion iechyd cymunedol ag iechyd a llesiant troseddwr sy'n oedolion a throseddwr ifanc. Er y bu'n rhaid rhoi cyfyngiadau cadarn ar waith mewn sefydliadau diogel a gwasanaethau prawf i leihau achosion o drosglwyddo'r feirws ac achub bywydau, rydym wedi gweithio'n agos gyda phartneriaid er mwyn sicrhau bod y gwasanaethau hanfodol hynny sy'n hollbwysig wrth adsefydlu troseddwr yn hygyrch o hyd.

Drwy broses gydweithio gadarnhaol, aethpwyd ati i brofi troseddwr sy'n oedolion a throseddwr ifanc a oedd yn cyrraedd pob carchar, Sefydliad Troseddwr Ifanc a Chartref Diogel i Blant yng Nghymru. Rhoddwyd protocol profi ar waith i staff yn ein Cartref Diogel i Blant, ar y cyd ag Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru. Sefydlwyd protocol olrhain cysylltiadau cenedlaethol er mwyn lleihau achosion o drosglwyddo'r feirws mewn sefydliadau diogel yng Nghymru, ac mae'r rhaglen frechu yn parhau i gael ei chyflwyno'n gyflym mewn carchardai, yn unol â'r rhaglen gymunedol.

Ym mis Mawrth y llynedd, gwnes y penderfyniad anodd i atal gwaith ar y Glasbrintiau ar gyfer Troseddwr Benywaidd a Throseddwr Ifanc dros dro, a hynny mewn ymateb i COVID-19 a'r angen i bob partner cyflenwi adleoli adnoddau. Ar 1 Gorffennaf 2020, ailddechreuodd y gwaith o gyflwyno'r ddau Lasbrint. Mae asesiad o'r cynlluniau gweithredu wedi'i gynnal erbyn hyn er mwyn adolygu'r hyn y gall y prosiect ei gyflawni a gosod amserlenni newydd. Mae cynlluniau gweithredu diwygiedig wedi'u cynhyrchu mewn ymgynghoriad â'n partneriaid allweddol, ac mae'r cynlluniau cyhoeddedig hyn yn nodi'r cynnydd a wnaed hyd yma a'n rhaglen waith yn y dyfodol.

Fel rhan o'r gyllideb eleni, rydym yn dyrannu £500,000 ychwanegol i'r rhaglen Glasbrint i gefnogi prosiectau sy'n atgyfnerthu cysylltiadau rhwng menywod yn y carchar a'u plant drwy'r cynllun 'Ymweld â Mam', a helpu i gyflwyno arferion a gaiff eu llywio gan drawma i Ymarferwyr Cyfiawnder Ieuencid. Mae'r buddsoddiad ychwanegol hwn yn y Glasbrintiau yn

helpu i sicrhau gwelliannau aml-genhedlaeth ystyrion i fywydau rhai o'r bobl fwyaf agored i niwed yn ein cymdeithas.

## **Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol a gwaith mewn perthynas â Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol**

Rwy'n cyfarfod â Chomisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru yn rheolaidd i drafod y gwaith sy'n mynd rhagddo o dan fframwaith Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol. Ym mis Mehefin 2021, cyhoeddwyd ein [Rhaglen Lywodraethu](#) a oedd yn cynnwys ein hamcanion llesiant i wneud y gorau o'n cyfraniad at y nodau llesiant dros dymor y Llywodraeth hon. Mae ein fframwaith gweithredu strategol ar gyfer Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yn parhau i lywio'r gwaith a wnawn i gyflawni a hyrwyddo datblygu cynaliadwy a'n dyletswyddau o dan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol.

Y flwyddyn hon, sefydlwyd fforymau rhanddeiliaid cenedlaethol Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, lanswyd tudalen ymgyrchu newydd i wella ymwybyddiaeth o'r Ddeddf, cynhaliwyd dau ddigwyddiad Cyfnewid Syniadau Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol a datblygwyd llwyfan blog i ennyn diddordeb rhanddeiliaid a rhoi'r wybodaeth ddiweddaraf iddynt am weithgareddau allweddol.

Ym mis Chwefror, aethom ati i gyhoeddi [map ffordd ar gyfer 2021](#) a oedd yn gosod amserlen gyflymach ar gyfer cyflawni cerrig milltir cenedlaethol, dangosyddion ac Adroddiad Tueddiadau'r Dyfodol o dan faner y rhaglen *Llunio Dyfodol Cymru*.

Ar 1 Medi, lansiais [ymgyngoriad ar gerrig milltir cenedlaethol i Gymru](#) a fydd yn llywio camau tuag at gyflawni'r nodau llesiant a rennir yn y dyfodol. Mae'n cynnig naw carreg filltir genedlaethol a fydd yn helpu Gweinidogion Cymru i asesu cynnydd tuag at gyflawni'r nodau llesiant. Mae hefyd yn ceisio barn ar fylchau posibl yn y set gyfredol o ddangosyddion llesiant cenedlaethol a welwyd yn sgil pandemig COVID-19. Bydd yr ymgyngoriad yn para tan 26 Hydref 2021.

Dros y 18 mis diwethaf, mae Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol wedi bod yn destun cryn dipyn o waith craffu o ran ei heffeithiolrwydd fel fframwaith deddfwriaethol i wella cynaliadwyedd Cymru. Yn yr hydref, byddwn yn cyhoeddi ein hymateb i'r argymhellion a nodir mewn tri adroddiad allweddol: Adroddiad Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol, Adroddiad yr Archwilydd Cyffredinol, a'r ymchwiliad gan y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus.

Rydym wedi cytuno ar gynllun gweithredu a rennir â Chomisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol er mwyn cysoni gweithgareddau yn rhyngwladol, defnyddio cysylltiadau yn y Cenhedloedd Unedig a llwyfannau fel World Expo a COP26 i hyrwyddo dull llesiant cenedlaethau'r dyfodol a dangos sut y gall helpu i ysgogi camau gweithredu cadarnhaol mewn perthynas â'r problemau mwyaf yn y byd.

## **Statws preswlydd sefydlog**

Ym mis Gorffennaf 2019, cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru becyn o gymorth am ddim i helpu dinasyddion yr UE i baratoi ar gyfer ymadawiad y DU o'r UE ac i wneud cais am statws preswlydd cyn-sefydlog neu breswlydd sefydlog. Mae'r cymorth hwn yn parhau i sicrhau ein bod yn cyrraedd cynifer o ddinasyddion yr EU â phosibl nad ydynt o bosibl, am

ba reswm bynnag, wedi gwneud cais i'r Cynllun Preswyllo'n Sefydlog i Ddinasyddion yr UE eto. Yn fwy diweddar, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi cadarnhau y bydd y cyllid a roddir i'r cyfreithwyr mewnfudo arbenigol Newfields Law, Cyngor ar Bopeth a'r sefydliad trydydd sector Settled yn parhau er mwyn eu galluogi i weithredu hyd at 31 Rhagfyr 2021.

Bydd y ddarpariaeth barhaus hon yn sicrhau y gall dinasyddion yr UE barhau i gael cyngor a chymorth am ddim i'w helpu i ennill statws preswlydd cyn-sefydlog neu breswlydd sefydlog. Ar 30 Mehefin 2021, roedd 96,800 o geisiadau wedi'u cyflwyno i'r Cynllun Preswyllo'n Sefydlog gan ddinasyddion yr UE sy'n byw yng Nghymru. Disgwylir i Lywodraeth y DU gyhoeddi'r dadansoddiad ystadegol chwarterol nesaf o geisiadau a wneir i'r cynllun yn ddiweddarach yn y mis; bydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn defnyddio'r data hyn i lywio'r cymorth y byddwn yn parhau i'w roi yn y dyfodol.

Yn anffodus, oherwydd symudiad rhydd hanesyddol, nid yw Llywodraeth y DU yn gwybod faint yn union o ddinasyddion yr UE yn y DU sy'n gymwys i wneud cais i'r Cynllun Preswyllo'n Sefydlog ac, o'r herwydd, nid yw'n bosibl cyfrifo'n gywir nifer y dinasyddion o'r EU yng Nghymru na wnaethant gais am statws preswlydd cyn-sefydlog neu breswlydd sefydlog cyn y dyddiad cau, sef 30 Mehefin. Fodd bynnag, roedd Awdurdodau Lleol yn amcangyfrif bod tua 95,000 o ddinasyddion yr UE yng Nghymru ac mae nifer y ceisiadau a gafwyd yn ddiweddar wedi rhagori ar y ffigur hwnnw.

I'r rhai sydd â sail resymol dros golli'r dyddiad cau, mae amser o hyd i wneud cais a byddwn yn parhau i gefnogi'r unigolion hynny. Mae rhagor o wybodaeth ar gael ar wefannau [Paratoi Cymru](#) ac [EUSSWales](#).

### Ailsefydlu pobl o Affganistan

Mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ymrwymedig i greu [Cenedl Noddfa](#) i geiswyr lloches a ffoaduriaid sy'n cyrraedd Cymru. Rydym am sicrhau y cânt gymorth i ailadeiladu eu bywydau a gwneud cyfraniad llawn at gymdeithas yng Nghymru.

Rwy'n cydymdeimlo â'r rhai y mae'r newidiadau yn Affganistan wedi effeithio arnynt, gan gynnwys unrhyw gyn-filwyr, cyn-ddehonglwyr neu ffoaduriaid sy'n byw yma a all fod yn teimlo'n bryderus am ffrindiau ac aelodau o'r teulu nôl adref. Bu i'r Prif Weinidog a minnau gyfarfod â rhanddeiliaid allweddol ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys cynrychiolwyr o'r gymuned Affganistanaid, a gwranddo arnynt er mwyn ystyried sut y gall pob un ohonom gydweithio i roi'r cymorth gorau posibl i'r rhai sy'n ffoi o Affganistan. Rydym yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol a'r Swyddfa Gartref i geisio nodi llety a allai gael ei ddefnyddio fel hafan i'r rhai sydd wedi cefnogi ein gwlad, a hynny mor gyflym â phosibl. Gallwch ddod o hyd i'm Datganiad Ysgrifenedig diweddaraf ar y sefyllfa [yma](#), ac rwy'n bwriadu rhoi Datganiad Llafar a fydd yn cynnwys y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf i'r Senedd ym mis Medi.

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon

## **Citizens Advice Cymru submission to the Equality and Social Justice Committee: Levels of indebtedness during the pandemic**

### **Summary**

Whilst Covid-19 has caused huge disruption to the work and lives of everyone in Wales, it has had a highly unequal impact on household finances. Though many have seen improvements in their financial situation during the pandemic, some groups have seen a much higher likelihood of being pulled into debt. Research from Citizens Advice and others has found that low-income households and people who experienced negative changes in their employment are most likely to have faced financial difficulties during the crisis, alongside young people, families with children, and disabled people or people with health conditions.<sup>1</sup>

We know that keeping up with living costs is a common problem for households on low incomes and those who have faced income shocks. They have a higher likelihood of falling into multiple different debts, particularly arrears on household bills like rent, Council Tax and energy costs. This can leave people with little room in their budget to make repayments or to pay enforcement costs or bankruptcy fees, making it more difficult to find a route out of debt. With little or no free income, they are also more at risk of severe hardship.

Minimising the harm for people who have been pulled into debt as a result of the pandemic should be a priority for the Welsh Government and local authorities in Wales over the coming year. The Welsh Government must act to maximise the impact that its existing programmes and services have on people in financial difficulty, whilst also recognising and addressing where its policies are exacerbating debt problems for people in Wales.

### **We recommend that the Welsh Government:**

- 1. Identify and implement ways to improve Council Tax collection practices to ensure they do not push people who accrued arrears during the pandemic further into debt.** We would also encourage the Welsh Government to outline how they will support local authorities with irrecoverable Council Tax arrears so that the burden of this debt is not placed on low income households.
- 2. Extend until the end of March 2022 the additional DAF flexibilities which allow those in crisis to access a higher number of Emergency Assistance Payments, and to apply more frequently.** We would also encourage the Welsh Government to continue to build on its success in reaching those facing hardship

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<sup>1</sup> Citizens Advice (2020) [Debt at the close of 2020](#)

during the pandemic, and explore how the removal of the additional flexibilities is likely to affect use and awareness of the DAF.

- 3. Seek to retain the current six-month notice period for evictions in Wales until the Renting Homes Act comes into force**, to provide more security for those who face eviction in the interim period and avoid creating additional confusion over tenants' rights amongst both renters and landlords. It should also monitor the impact that the end of the furlough scheme has in Wales in order to consider whether the eligibility criteria for the Tenancy Hardship Grant should be broadened to include affected households.

### **Debt advice during the pandemic**

Local Citizens Advice offices in Wales helped more than 18,000 people with debt issues last year. The most common issues we saw related to Council Tax arrears (18%), credit and store card debts (18%), fuel debts (14%) and unsecured personal loans (12%). In line with other debt advice charities, the number of people we help with debt issues dropped during the pandemic. Whilst there are likely to be a range of reasons behind this trend, we have outlined some probable factors below.

Firstly, actions taken by both the UK and Welsh governments to protect household finances during this time have played a big role in mitigating the economic impact of the pandemic. Programmes like the Job Retention Scheme, the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme, and the Self Isolation Support Schemes have minimized the potential losses in income and employment as a result of Covid. The £20 increase in the value of the Universal Credit standard allowance and the basic element of Working Tax Credit has provided additional support to those on the lowest incomes, with Citizens Advice data suggesting that it helped stave off a surge in the proportion of people we help with debt who are unable to cover their living costs.<sup>2</sup>

Whilst our offices continue to support people who have faced financial shocks despite the existence of these schemes, these have not materialised at the scale which might have been expected towards the beginning of the pandemic. Alongside the enforced reductions in spending which came about as a result of Covid restrictions, this has meant that many households have seen improvements in their financial situation, being able to pay down debts or build up their savings.<sup>3</sup>

Secondly, measures introduced by government, regulators and individual firms have protected people from the immediate impact of falling behind on bills during the crisis.

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<sup>2</sup> Citizens Advice (2020) [Life on less than zero](#)

<sup>3</sup> Resolution Foundation (2021) [Living Standards Audit 2021](#)

For a long period, people who struggled to pay their mortgage, rent, and other bills were protected from the worst impacts of debt such as eviction, bailiff enforcement, or being disconnected from essential services.<sup>4</sup> Those in serious arrears were protected from enforcement activity through either a formal pause on proceedings or court restrictions. As a result, people have been less likely to face enforcement action and threats of eviction or disconnection which are often a trigger for people to seek debt advice. The Welsh Government has also sought to expand the support available to help people maximise their income and deal with problem debt, particularly those affected by the pandemic.<sup>5</sup>

Finally, Covid-19 restrictions have affected the way in which people access debt advice. When the pandemic began, Citizens Advice rapidly transitioned its debt services so people could continue getting the help they needed. Staff and volunteers adapted swiftly to expand phone, email and webchat advice channels in order to support people during the lockdown. This shift brought lots of benefits in terms of improving access for people who prefer to use digital channels or who might find it difficult to attend an appointment at a particular location. People told us they found our debt services easier to access compared to 2019-20, and we saw an increase in young people accessing advice.<sup>6</sup> However, it is likely that some people would have been negatively affected by the change. This could be because they struggled to access advice via online or telephone channels, or they had difficulty acting on advice without in-person support. In Wales, Citizens Advice is continuing to work with partners to proactively reach out to people who are new to advice or are in most need of advice.

Currently, our data suggests that demand for debt advice remains slightly below pre-pandemic levels, though local Citizens Advice offices in Wales have helped more people with fuel debts and private sector rent arrears in the first quarter of 2021-22 than during the same period in 2019-20. Given the ongoing uncertainty around the course of the pandemic and its longer-term economic impacts, it is difficult to predict the take-up of debt advice services over the coming years. For example, it is still unclear what impact the ending of the furlough scheme may have on people's employment and incomes.

We anticipate that the planned removal of the £20 increase in the value of Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit will tip more households into financial difficulty, with Citizens Advice research suggesting that 2.3 million people across the UK could be pushed into debt as a result of the cut.<sup>7</sup> In addition, with the energy bill price cap due to

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<sup>4</sup> Citizens Advice (2020) [Near the cliff-edge: how to protect households facing debt during COVID-19](#)

<sup>5</sup> Welsh Government (2020) [Child poverty: income maximisation action plan 2020 to 2021](#)

<sup>6</sup> Citizens Advice (2021) [Debt impact report 2020/21](#)

<sup>7</sup> Citizens Advice, [2.3 million will be pushed into the red by Universal Credit cut](#), 26 August 2021

increase by around £150 a year this winter, many people on benefits - who are more likely to be on default tariffs - will be hit with rising costs at the same time as seeing their incomes cut.<sup>8</sup> However, any increased need for debt advice may take some time to appear given that people do not tend to seek help immediately as they fall into financial difficulties.

In addition, the new Breathing Space and Mental Health Crisis Debt Respite Schemes recently came into effect in England and Wales. Breathing Space gives people temporary protection from most types of debt collection while they take action to get on top of their debts. We believe the scheme is playing an important role in helping people stabilize their situation and take steps to manage their debts, particularly for those facing imminent enforcement action. At the same time, many of the people we help have priority debts, negative budgets, additional vulnerabilities, or are facing very complex situations, and it therefore may not always be possible to move on to a long-term debt solution by the end of the 60-day moratorium period.

### **The financial impact on different groups in Wales**

The pandemic has had a highly unequal impact on household finances. Whilst many have seen improvements in their financial situation during the crisis, some groups have faced a higher likelihood of being pulled into debt.

Low-income households have been much more likely to have run down savings or see their debt levels increase as a result of the pandemic.<sup>9</sup> This group are more likely to have faced additional costs as a result of the pandemic and to have seen a negative change to their employment, both of which are a key factor to increases in debt. An increase in debt problems for people on low incomes is particularly concerning, as they tend to be more likely to face some of the worst impacts of debt (e.g. eviction, bailiff enforcement, or being disconnected from essential services).

Citizens Advice research prior to the pandemic highlighted a growing problem where the people we help with debts simply don't have enough money to meet their key living costs, often as a result of being on a low income.<sup>10</sup> This puts households under considerable pressure, resulting in a higher likelihood of household bill arrears and multiple debts, and leaving little room in their budget to make debt repayments or pay bankruptcy fees. During the pandemic, we found that many of those who have fallen behind on their bills were facing severe hardship. A third (34%) of people with

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<sup>8</sup> Guardian, *[Energy firms join charity push for social tariff to offset fuel poverty](#)*, 6 Aug 2021

<sup>9</sup> Resolution Foundation (2021) *[Living Standards Audit 2021](#)*

<sup>10</sup> Citizens Advice (2020) *[Negative Budgets](#)*



household bill debts reported that they have been unable to afford food or other basic necessities in the period since the outbreak began.<sup>11</sup>

People who saw negative changes in their employment have also been particularly at risk of financial problems during the pandemic. Experiences tend to have been shaped by the extent of the support available to them through Covid-19 protection schemes or the benefits system. Those who were ineligible or whose income was only partially protected through schemes like the furlough or the Self-Employed Income Support grant were more likely to be facing financial difficulties.<sup>12</sup> This includes people who were laid off or made redundant towards the beginning of the pandemic, as well as the self-employed and people in non-traditional work. Citizens Advice research found that disabled people, people with caring responsibilities and families with children were more likely to be facing redundancy in the first few months of the pandemic.<sup>13</sup>

Citizens Advice research conducted in November 2020 highlighted other groups who are particularly at risk of financial problems. It found that families with young children were more likely to be behind on bills, with 60% of parents reporting they had cut back on spending during the pandemic to make sure their children don't go without.<sup>14</sup> Young people, renters and Black and Minority Ethnic people were also shown to be particularly likely to be affected.

In Wales we found that people with mental health problems were twice as likely to have fallen behind on household bills since the Coronavirus outbreak.<sup>15</sup> We know from previous research that periods of financial difficulty can contribute to mental distress, both because of increased stress or worry associated with money and debt problems, and more indirectly by limiting the options that people have to take part in activities which support good mental health.<sup>16</sup> This in turn can make it more difficult to deal with debt-related issues.

### **Welsh Government's role in tackling debt-related issues during the pandemic**

Measures brought in by the Welsh Government during the pandemic have played a significant role in reducing financial hardship for households in Wales and protecting households from the immediate impact of household bill debt.

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<sup>11</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru (2020) [Coronavirus debts: Estimating the size of lockdown arrears in Wales](#)

<sup>12</sup> Standard Life foundation (2020) [Emerging from lockdown](#)

<sup>13</sup> Citizens Advice (2020) [An unequal crisis](#)

<sup>14</sup> Citizens Advice (2020) [Debt at the close of 2020](#)

<sup>15</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru (2021) [Mental health and Covid-19 in Wales](#)

<sup>16</sup> Money and Mental Health Policy Institute, [Money on your mind](#), June 2016

Whilst the social distancing measures have currently ended, the economic impact of the crisis will be ongoing. Our research has shown that many of the households worst affected financially during the crisis were those already on low incomes or whose jobs were affected by the pandemic.<sup>17</sup> Without ongoing support, households with debt to essential services and public bodies are at greater risk of severe financial hardship. The Welsh Government needs to consider how to build on successes during the pandemic to protect low income households in particular.

### ***Rent arrears***

In 2020-21, 1 in 6 of the people who came to Citizens Advice for help with debt had rent arrears. The number of people our advisers helped with rent arrears has followed the wider trend seen amongst our debt clients, with generally fewer people coming for advice initially, but with current numbers rising to slightly more than pre-pandemic levels. Around 180,000 households in Wales live in the private rented sector.<sup>18</sup> Our research conducted in November last year indicated that over 44,000 households had fallen behind on their rent, with an estimated total of £44 million in rent arrears.<sup>19</sup>

Whilst people in all tenures have seen their employment and income negatively affected, renters are more likely to have been furloughed or lost a job.<sup>20</sup> This means that many saw significant reductions in their income, whilst their housing costs remained fixed. Renters also typically have lower levels of savings, and are therefore less able to cope with income shocks or cover living costs for extended periods of time.<sup>21</sup>

### ***Pause to evictions***

At the start of the crisis, we expressed our concern that if people fell behind on rent payments, they could face eviction during the pandemic. Loss of rented or tied accommodation is the single biggest reason for people being threatened with homelessness (32%).<sup>22</sup> The second biggest is rent arrears (15%). This would have increased the risk of homelessness for many people in Wales and put pressure on local homelessness services.<sup>23</sup> Instead, the pause to evictions protected renters who had fallen behind on their rent payments until June 2021, giving them time to get back on

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<sup>17</sup> Citizens Advice, [Coronavirus debts](#), November 2020

<sup>18</sup> ONS, [UK private rented sector](#), January 2019

<sup>19</sup> Citizens Advice, [Coronavirus debts](#), November 2020

<sup>20</sup> Resolution Foundation, [Coping with housing costs during the coronavirus crisis](#), May 2020

<sup>21</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Protecting renters in Wales from eviction during Covid-19](#), June 2020

<sup>22</sup> StatsWales, [Households found to be threatened with homelessness during the year. Main reason for being threatened with homelessness](#), 2018-19

<sup>23</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Protecting renters in Wales from eviction during Covid-19](#), June 2020

their feet or to find other more affordable accommodation whilst remaining in their homes.

Whilst the suspension of evictions seems to have been largely successful, our advisers still heard from clients whose landlords ordered them to leave their homes despite this. Advisers heard from clients who had been told to leave their home during the no-eviction period, some who had been verbally harassed by their landlord and a case where a client had belongings forcibly removed from the property by the landlord.

#### *Extension to the eviction notice*

We also welcomed the extension to the notice period for ending tenancies from two months to six months, announced by the Welsh Government in March 2021. We believe this extension helped to give additional time to households that needed to stabilise their financial situation or make adjustments to their living arrangements.

This extension is due to end on September 30th 2021. As part of the Renting Homes Wales (Act) 2016, the long-term extension to 'no fault' eviction notice periods from two to six months is due to come into force in spring 2022. In light of the continued economic uncertainty as a result of the crisis, we are concerned that temporarily returning the notice period to two months between September 2021 and spring 2022 risks causing confusion over tenants' rights amongst both renters and landlords and leaves more people at risk of being evicted at short notice.

#### *Tenancy Saver Loan*

We also welcomed the introduction of the Tenancy Saver Loan in October 2020 to help renters manage their rent arrears. The measure showed a commitment to keeping people in their homes and protecting households from the wider impacts of debt.

Whilst evidence shows that large numbers of renters fell behind on their bills as a result of the pandemic,<sup>24,25</sup> initial figures suggest that the number of loans allocated was significantly lower than expected. We do not know why take-up of the scheme was low, but we believe that the lending requirements and a reluctance to take on new debt are likely to have been a barrier for some renters. It is also possible that there were fewer renters who were at a crisis point when the loan was introduced given that the eviction ban was still in place, or that the number of people in arrears who were not eligible for benefits was lower than anticipated.

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<sup>24</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Coronavirus Debts: Estimating the size of lockdown arrears in Wales](#), November 2020

<sup>25</sup> Resolution Foundation, [Covid-19 crisis has seen 450,000 additional families fall behind on their housing payments](#), February 2021

Looking ahead, some households are likely to face further financial difficulty in the coming months. It is likely that the cut to Universal Credit at the end of September will leave many unable to afford essentials, pushing them further into debt.<sup>26</sup> There is additional uncertainty over the impact that the end of the furlough scheme will have on household finances in Wales.

Given this uncertainty, we are pleased that the Tenancy Hardship Grant remains in place to support the households that need it. Offering this support as a grant rather than as a loan will remove many of the possible barriers to accessing support, such as a poor credit history, affordability of repayments or reluctance to take on new forms of debt. Improved and targeted campaigning will also be important to increase awareness of the grant so that it is accessible to those who need it.

**We recommend that the Welsh Government seek to retain the current six-month notice period for evictions in Wales until the Renting Homes Act comes into force,** to provide more security for those who face eviction in the interim period and avoid creating additional confusion over tenant's rights amongst both renters and landlords. It should also monitor the impact that the end of the furlough scheme has in Wales in order to consider whether the eligibility criteria for the Tenancy Hardship Grant should be broadened to include affected households.

### ***Council Tax arrears***

Some households have been hit hard by the Covid-19 crisis, leaving many people in Wales struggling to pay their Council Tax bills. We estimated in November that 64,000 households in Wales had fallen behind on Council Tax payments. More recently, figures published by the Welsh Government show that the total amount of Council Tax arrears has risen by £46.4 million. This represents a 42% increase in the total level of arrears compared to 2019-20, and is the biggest rise in arrears in more than 20 years.<sup>27</sup>

Citizens Advice research has previously shown that many people in Council Tax arrears are unable to afford their bills, rather than willfully avoiding payment.<sup>28</sup> Whilst we know that the people we help with Council Tax arrears are often experiencing wider financial difficulty, the pandemic has worsened the circumstances of many households - pushing many more into hardship and debt.

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<sup>26</sup> Citizens Advice, Budget 2021 representation from Citizens Advice on the Universal Credit Uplift, January 2021

<sup>27</sup> Welsh Government (2021) Council Tax collection rates: April 2020 to March 2021

<sup>28</sup> Citizens Advice, The Costs of Collection, April 2019

Our research found that 7 in 10 people who have fallen into Council Tax arrears during the crisis have also fallen behind on other household bills, like rent or utilities and 1 in 3 people in Council Tax arrears say they haven't been able to afford food or other necessities.<sup>29</sup> Our research found that people who saw a negative change to their employment were 2.5 times more likely to say they had fallen behind on Council Tax bills.<sup>30</sup>

### *Council Tax Reduction Scheme*

As Council Tax is one of the largest fixed costs that households pay after housing costs, the CTRS is a crucial lever to relieve financial pressures on low-income households. We strongly support the Welsh Government's continued funding of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in Wales and the additional funding provided to local authorities to support the scheme during the pandemic. Research has found that councils with more generous Council Tax Reduction schemes tend to also have better Council Tax collection rates, as households that are less able to pay are required to pay less.<sup>31</sup> This means that local authorities spend less time and fewer resources seeking to collect arrears that are likely to be unaffordable for the individual to repay.<sup>32</sup> It also protects families on low incomes from incurring additional fees or costs that often come alongside debt enforcement.<sup>33</sup>

Whilst the Council Tax Reduction Scheme is a crucial source of support for people who are struggling to pay their Council Tax bills, there's a risk that many people who fell behind on Council Tax payments during the crisis may not have accessed the scheme.<sup>34</sup>

Firstly, awareness of the scheme is low and not everyone who is entitled to a Council Tax reduction is accessing it. We previously found that only half of people in Wales believed that someone claiming Universal Credit would be entitled to a reduction on their Council Tax bill.<sup>35</sup> Secondly, some people are losing out on support as a result of moving onto Universal Credit. Our advisers report that the people they help are not always aware they need to make a separate application for CTRS, and are therefore falling into Council Tax arrears without knowing it.

Between March 2020 and January 2021, there was an 80% increase in the number of UC claimants in Wales. Many of these new claimants may not have known their eligibility

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<sup>29</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#), March 2021

<sup>30</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#), March 2021

<sup>31</sup> Policy In Practice (2020) [Council Tax debt collection and low-income Londoners](#), December 2020

<sup>32</sup> Money Advice Trust (2021) [Council Tax after Covid](#)

<sup>33</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru (2021) [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#)

<sup>34</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru (2021) [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#)

<sup>35</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru (2021) [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#)

for Council Tax reduction or that they needed to make a separate application.<sup>36</sup> Most local authorities allow backdated applications for Council Tax bills for up to 3 months before the application, however some households may have fallen into debt without knowing they could apply for CTRS and may now be unable to access this support.

It is important to recognise that some people who do claim CTRS may still not be able to afford their Council Tax bills. Council Tax payments can place a disproportionate cost burden on low-income households as they tend to pay more as a proportion of their income, meaning that families who are not eligible for the full amount of CTRS may still struggle to afford their bills.<sup>37</sup>

Additionally, eligibility for Council Tax reduction may fluctuate for some households each month, depending on income. This was more evident amongst some of our clients during the pandemic. Factors such as claiming benefits for the first time, workplaces closing and reopening and access to additional payments or grants such as self-isolation support or the bonus payments given to NHS and social care staff have made it harder for some people to keep track of their changing eligibility and to keep up with bills.

#### *Pause on the use of bailiffs*

Citizens Advice strongly welcomed the pause to the use of enforcement agents for Council Tax collection during the pandemic, having highlighted problems within current collection practices in previous research, including the ways that bailiff use can escalate debts and cause distress.<sup>38</sup> The pause to bailiff use for arrears collections meant that people experiencing financial difficulty as a result of public health measures did not experience rapid escalation to court procedures or the threat of enforcement action. It also helped to protect people in crisis from some of the negative mental health impacts associated with debt collection.<sup>39</sup>

Whilst the use of bailiffs to collect Council Tax arrears has been decreasing in Wales in recent years, in the most recent year for which figures are available there were still over 50,000 Council Tax debts being referred to bailiffs by local authorities in Wales.<sup>40</sup> With many more households in arrears, we are deeply concerned that more people will be subject to harm caused by collection practices.

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<sup>36</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, [Universal Credit statistics, 29 April 2013 to 8 July 2021](#), (2021)

<sup>37</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru (2021) [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#)

<sup>38</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#), March 2021

<sup>39</sup> Citizens Advice (2018) [A law unto themselves: How bailiffs are breaking the rules](#)

<sup>40</sup> Money Advice Trust (2019) [Stop the Knock: An update on local authority debt collection practices in England and Wales](#)

We have previously highlighted several aspects of Council Tax collection which can worsen debt problems rather than helping people get their finances on track:<sup>41</sup>

- People can be made liable for the full annual bill after missing a single Council Tax payment. This means one missed payment can increase someone's debt significantly, and leave them more at risk of being subject to bailiff action.
- Councils have limited powers to recover debt without getting a court order. This pushes councils to use the court process very quickly and often leads to people incur extra charges.
- Pressure to collect arrears quickly means councils regularly refer debt to bailiffs. This process adds extra fees to people's debts and can cause significant distress.<sup>42</sup>

Our advisers are already beginning to see issues arising from the collection of Council Tax arrears as enforcement has resumed. We have seen several clients who are struggling to agree affordable repayments plans with enforcement agents and are worried about how they will repay their arrears. Earlier this summer, a client in South Wales had an affordable repayment offer refused by the enforcement agency dealing with his arrears. He felt pushed into accepting a repayment plan that he could not afford but felt he had no choice but to accept. He then defaulted on repayments and had his vehicle clamped by the bailiffs. The client had existing health problems and felt that dealing with his Council Tax debts had a severe impact on his mental health.

We have also heard from clients that have been subject to aggressive or humiliating behaviour by bailiffs, despite being unable to make repayments or displaying signs of vulnerability. Advisers heard from one client who complained that bailiffs had clamped their neighbour's vehicle thinking it was theirs, then refused to unclamp it unless they paid over £2200 in full. This caused embarrassment and panic for the client. In another case, a client who had recently lost their mother to the coronavirus, had an affordable repayment offer refused and was visited multiple times by bailiffs trying to enter their home.

### *Next steps*

Local authorities have a responsibility to try to collect unpaid Council Tax, and it is likely that there will be households in arrears who are unaware that they have fallen behind or have seen their financial situation improve enough to repay the amount owed. But

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<sup>41</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#), March 2021

<sup>42</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Helping to ensure a fairer Council Tax system in Wales](#), March 2021

passing Council Tax debts to bailiffs to enforce is currently causing harm to people who have already borne the brunt of the economic downturn.

Given that some local authorities have managed to maintain their collection rates despite bailiff action being severely restricted, local authorities should consider again whether the frequent use of heavy handed debt collection is necessary. Instead, the Welsh Government should take the opportunity to learn from how local authority services have adapted during the pandemic, and commit to fixing the issues within Council Tax collections that are currently exacerbating debt problems for people in Wales.

We are pleased to see that the Welsh Government committed to seek reform for a fairer Council Tax system in its Programme for Government.<sup>43</sup> However, urgent action is needed to improve collections for people who have fallen behind during the pandemic, so that there is not a disproportionate burden placed on low-income households, further deepening the unequal impact of the pandemic.

We believe that the Welsh Government needs to prioritise improving Council Tax collections in Wales, learning from successes during the pandemic and aiming to drastically reduce the number of low-income households that face court action as a result of falling behind on Council Tax bills. We recommend that the Welsh Government:

- 1. Identify examples of good practice in Council Tax collection amongst local authorities during the pandemic.** Many local authorities have found ways to support people struggling with Council Tax arrears during the pandemic whilst bailiff action was severely restricted, including awareness raising campaigns for CTRS and offering deferments of payments for clients struggling at the start of the pandemic. Any learnings from this exercise should be used to develop better collection practices that do not encourage the frequent use of bailiffs.
- 2. Evaluate the impact of the Council Tax Protocol for Wales and commit to placing the voluntary measures it contains on a statutory footing if needed.** Whilst the Council Tax Protocol was a welcome recognition of the need for a fairer Council Tax arrears collections process, the experiences of Citizens Advice clients suggest that many people continue to face problems because of the way that Council Tax is collected. If there is evidence that Local Authorities are not implementing the protocol in a way which ensures that Council Tax collection is fair and protects people in vulnerable circumstances, the Welsh Government should explore making some aspects statutory.

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<sup>43</sup> Welsh Government, [Welsh Government - Programme for Government](#), 2021



3. **Outline the actions the Welsh Government will take to support local authorities with irrecoverable Council Tax arrears.** The UK government announced they would be launching a new guarantee scheme for 75% of 2020-21 irrecoverable local tax losses and to give them three years (rather than one) to repay collection fund deficits.<sup>44</sup> We would like to hear more information on how the Welsh Government will support local authorities with irrecoverable arrears, so that the burden of this debt is not placed on low income households.
4. **Change the regulations governing the collection of Council Tax to ensure they do not push people further into debt.** It should make changes to ensure that Council Tax debts are not enforced in a way that exacerbates financial difficulties brought on by the pandemic. This should include:
  - Helping to prevent Council Tax debts from escalating by stopping people becoming liable for their annual bill when they miss one payment
  - Making it easier for councils to improve collection by giving them more powers to collect debt in a fair way without getting a liability order first.
5. **Maximise the support provided to low-income households through the Council Tax Reduction Scheme.** It should seek to increase take up of the scheme and guarantee that people eligible for the scheme do not lose out as a result of moving onto Universal Credit.

### **Emergency financial support**

We strongly welcomed the changes the Welsh Government introduced to the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) in response to the Covid-19 crisis, with the aim of helping families and individuals facing financial challenges. These included:

1. *Extra funding* - around £11m extra was allocated to DAF at the beginning of the pandemic, effectively doubling the available budget compared to 2019-20.<sup>45</sup> Between March and December 2020, £16.4m was allocated through DAF, compared to £10.57m in 2019-20 (and £7.49m in 2018-19).<sup>46</sup>
2. *Additional flexibilities* - including allowing those facing hardship as a result of the pandemic to make 5 rather than 3 claims for an Emergency Assistance Payment

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<sup>44</sup> Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, [December 2020: COVID-19 funding for local government in 2021 to 2022 - consultative policy paper](#), (July 2021)

<sup>45</sup> Welsh Government, [Discretionary Assistance Fund receives £11m boost in Wales](#), May 2020.

<sup>46</sup> Senedd, [Written Question WQ82085\(e\)](#), answered 17/02/2021

(EAP) in a 12 month period, and to claim once every 7 days rather than every 28 days.

3. *Off-gas fuel support pilot*- Adding new support for fuel payments to those off-the gas grid (typically in rural areas) who heat their homes with LPG or oil.

Early in the pandemic, we estimated that 4 in 10 (42%) people had seen their household income drop because of the crisis, with nearly 1 in 14 (7%) losing 80% or more.<sup>47</sup> Our frontline advisers suggest that the Discretionary Assistance Fund (DAF) has been crucial during the pandemic and, as a result of increased funding and flexibility, was able to provide a much needed safety net for more households in need, particularly for those who are most vulnerable.

Demand for the DAF reflects the severe financial hardship experienced by many people in Wales during the crisis. Data published by the Welsh Government shows £15m has been granted to people in Wales through Emergency Assistance Payments.<sup>48</sup> It also suggests that the proportion of successful applications has increased, with 58% of applications leading to an award in 2020-21, compared to 42% the previous year.<sup>49</sup>

The number of individual clients coming for help with Localised Social Welfare (including DAF applications) in 2020-21 was more than 2.5 times the number of people who came in the year before. Demand for support through DAF was often coming from people who faced gaps in income, either because of changes in employment or whilst waiting for a benefits payment, or who were in severe financial hardship and were struggling to pay for basics like food or heating.

Amongst people who came to us for help with the DAF and other forms of localised social welfare between March and October 2020, 1 in 3 (34%) also needed advice on accessing a foodbank and 1 in 6 (17%) needed advice on making an initial claim for Universal Credit. Demand for support with DAF applications also reflects the unequal nature of the impact of the pandemic. People who come to us for advice on DAF were disproportionately likely to be in rented accommodation, to have a disability or a health condition, and to be unemployed or unable to work. People in these groups were also more likely to face employment or income loss as a result of the pandemic.<sup>50, 51</sup>

### *Insights into off-gas fuel support*

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<sup>47</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Facing the cliff edge](#), April 2020

<sup>48</sup> Welsh Government (May 2021) [Summary data about coronavirus \(COVID-19\) and the response to it](#)

<sup>49</sup> Senedd, [Written Question WQ82085\(e\)](#), answered 17/02/2021

<sup>50</sup> Citizens Advice Cymru, [Facing the cliff edge](#), April 2020

<sup>51</sup> Citizens Advice, [An unequal crisis](#), August 2020

The pandemic and its impact on household finances heightened the need for emergency support and we strongly supported the development and introduction of a pilot to provide DAF grants for off-gas fuel support in late 2020. The pilot enabled the DAF to make single payments to households using oil and up to three smaller payments to those using LPG.

Evidence from our advisers had long indicated that there was a gap in the emergency support available to households, particularly in rural areas, who use LPG or oil for heating. LPG and oil typically have minimum order values for deliveries. Where households are in emergency financial situations and can not afford the minimum value of fuel, they are at risk of living in a cold home, especially in cold weather.

The DAF had been unable to support them in the same way that it was able to support households who, for example, may be on prepayment meters and use a mains gas boiler for heat, but cannot afford to top up.

When the pilot began, advisers immediately indicated that the payments were making a significant difference in helping households in fuel poverty to heat their homes by enabling them to top up their fuels.

With the debts that households will continue to experience, there is an ongoing need for the DAF to continue being able to provide emergency financial payments for fuel to households off the gas grid. It is important that this is available all year round to provide equity with other energy consumers and to ensure that specific groups, such as the Gypsy and Traveller community who are more likely to use LPG for heat, have equitable access. Such support remains essential to address the needs of rural households in Wales and until such time as households are supported to move to low carbon heating technologies.

#### *Upcoming changes to DAF*

Our data indicates that demand for the DAF remains high. In the first quarter of 2021-22, we helped three times as many people with issues relating to Localised Social Welfare (including the Discretionary Assistance Fund) than during the same period the previous year.

However, the extra flexibilities which allow people to access more than 3 EAPs and to apply multiple times in a shorter period are due to come to an end on 30 September. The additional criteria which has allowed people to claim if they incurred pandemic-related costs has already been removed. Since the additional criteria were removed, the number of EAPs being granted has significantly reduced.

Given the challenges facing low-income households as we move into the autumn, we are concerned the removal of the additional flexibilities will mean that households who are still required to self isolate and those facing income shocks when the furlough scheme ends will be disadvantaged. As outlined above, those who have been pulled into debt as a result of this crisis are particularly likely to be on low incomes and therefore at risk of severe hardship. This group are among those who are more likely to need multiple grants to support them whilst they try to improve their financial situation.

Looking further ahead, we believe there is an opportunity for the Welsh Government to build on its successes in providing emergency financial support through DAF during the pandemic as we move into the next financial year. Use and awareness of the DAF has significantly increased, which is in part due to the more flexible approach and a higher profile amongst frontline workers, as well as the increased budget.

It has been recognised as an important lever for supporting disadvantaged groups, as evidenced by the steps the Welsh Government has taken to ensure DAF is used by people with No Recourse to Public Funds status, EU migrants, and people in fuel poverty. It is also being recognised as a way of reaching the people in Wales who are in most need and may be less likely to engage with other types of support, through the development of referrals into the Single Advice Fund.<sup>52</sup>

We believe all of these steps have helped to remove barriers which might previously have prevented people eligible for support from accessing DAF, and to target financial support towards addressing some of the most harmful impacts of poverty and financial insecurity. However, there is more that could be done to ensure that the support provided through DAF is reaching those in need and results in a lasting improvement to people's circumstances.

There is an urgent risk that these positive developments will be undermined or lost if use and awareness of the fund declines as we move out of the pandemic. If the removal of the additional flexibilities results in applications being declined for people who are in genuine need of support, there is a risk this will eventually result in people being less likely to think they might be eligible or frontline workers being less likely to recommend it as an option for the people they are helping. Although demand is unlikely to remain as high as it was during the initial months of the pandemic, reducing the level of funding to pre-pandemic levels could also lead to unintentional 'gatekeeping' if there is a perception that resources are limited and someone's case is not sufficiently severe.

**We recommend that the Welsh Government extend until the end of March 2022 the additional DAF flexibilities which allow those in crisis to access a higher number of Emergency Assistance Payments, and to apply more frequently. We**

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<sup>52</sup> Welsh Government (2020) [Child poverty: income maximisation action plan 2020 to 2021](#)

would also encourage the Welsh Government to continue to build on its success in reaching those facing hardship during the pandemic, and explore how the removal of the additional flexibilities is likely to affect use and awareness of the DAF.

# StepChange submission to the Equality and Social Justice Committee inquiry into the level of indebtedness during the pandemic and personal, household and consumer debt

## About

StepChange Debt Charity is the UK's leading specialist debt advice charity, offering free and impartial advice to those in problem debt across the UK through telephone and online debt advice channels. The statistics in the appendix of this submission are based on a sample of 5,670 clients resident in Wales that StepChange provided full debt advice to in 2020.

## Responses to committee questions

*The effectiveness of the Welsh Government's overall approach to tackling debt-related issues during the pandemic, and to consider how its policy might need to develop over the coming months to address upcoming challenges.*

- StepChange has commissioned public polling to understand the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on financial difficulty and problem debt. Our most recent polling was conducted in January this year.<sup>1</sup> The table below sets out high level impacts on adults in Wales at that time.<sup>2</sup> We understand the Bevan Foundation will shortly publish more recent analysis of the impact of the pandemic on debt in Wales.

	%
Long-term income fall since March 2020	29%
Signs of financial difficulty	21%
Problem debt	7%

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<sup>1</sup> StepChange (2021) [\*Stormy weather: The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on financial difficulty in January 2021\*](#)

<sup>2</sup> All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 3,458 adults, including 181 adults in Wales. Fieldwork was undertaken between 25 and 27 January 2021. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all GB adults (aged 18+).

Income fall means a respondent experienced a fall in income since March 2020 that affected their ability to pay for day to day expenses and their income had not recovered in January 2021.

'Showing signs of financial difficulty' is defined as meeting one or more of nine indicators including falling behind on essential bills and regularly using an overdraft; 'problem debt' is defined as meeting three or more of these criteria.

Arrears on household bills includes council tax, rent, mortgage, energy, water and telecoms.

Hardship is includes having fewer than two meals a day for two or more days, rationing or going without basic utilities for five or more days and going without clothing or footwear appropriate for the weather (in each case we specify that respondents go without these things because they cannot afford them).

'Run down savings' means a respondent stated they have used more than half of their savings to pay for essentials since March 2020.

Arrears on household bills	10%
Experienced hardship	18%
Borrowed to make ends meet	25%
Run down savings	6%
'Certainly' or 'probably' unable to pay for essentials in next 12 months	10%

These figures are broadly comparable to the rest of the UK. Notably, our figures suggest that a higher proportion of Welsh adults have experienced hardship (18%) compared to England (11%) and Scotland (14%).

- We note later in this submission the impact of the pandemic on StepChange's service. The impact of the pandemic on the total number of people experiencing problem debt in Wales is difficult to gauge at this stage. However, we can make some high-level observations:
  - Demand for debt advice has fallen during the pandemic. This is likely to reflect UK-wide interventions such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme as well as a series of measures by regulators to protect those struggling during the pandemic. This includes, for example, payment holidays introduced by the Financial Conduct Authority, the 'evictions ban' and other agreements between utility regulators and providers. These measures seem to have been somewhat successful in preventing financial crisis driven by consumer credit debt and arrears on household bills. (This is not to say that these interventions have prevented hardship, which evidence suggests has risen during the pandemic.)
  - It is evident from our own and wider research that, notwithstanding demand for full debt advice, the pandemic has had a big negative effect on some households (as reflected in the above statistics). Our polling suggests that those who were more debt vulnerable at the outset of the pandemic are among those more likely to be affected negatively – we provide more detail about these groups below. Many who were not struggling with debt at the outset of the pandemic have also experienced difficulty (such as mortgagors in affected sectors). Debt and arrears among those affected may yet crystallise into acute problems in coming months.
  - Some who were in difficulty at the outset of the pandemic have benefitted from reduced expenses and/or savings and may now be less likely to be struggling with debt. At an aggregate level, it is therefore important to understand not only the total number of households experiencing financial difficulty but the change in composition and experiences within this group.
- Aspects of the devolved safety net in Wales are likely to have mitigated the negative impact of the pandemic on Welsh households to some degree, including the more generous (compared to England) Welsh Council Tax Reduction Scheme, the Council Tax Protocol for Wales and

the Discretionary Assistance Fund. We also note the Welsh Government created the Tenancy Saver Loan Scheme during the pandemic (we comment further on this support below).

- Financial difficulty caused by the pandemic is likely to have a scarring effect on the financial resilience of some Welsh households and increase vulnerability to problem debt. Over the coming months, the Welsh government, working with local authorities, can help these households by:
  - Supporting those with arrears on priority bills, particularly council tax and rent to address these debts safely and affordably. This includes re-emphasising the importance of the Council Tax Protocol for Wales and responsible council tax collection, ensuring eligible households benefit from the Welsh Council Tax Reduction Scheme and supporting councils to address irrecoverable arrears.
  - Ensuring Discretionary Housing Payments and the Tenancy Hardship Grant reach households struggling with Covid-19-related arrears (including revising eligibility criteria if necessary). The Welsh government should also consider further steps to prevent arrears-related evictions caused by the pandemic before the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 comes fully into force.
  - Continuing to support and promote alternatives to borrowing to make ends meet and high-cost credit for those in financial difficulty. This includes building on lessons from the Discretionary Assistance Fund during the pandemic, working with local authorities to direct households in financial crisis away from high-cost borrowing (for example, through debt advice and responsible lenders), and engaging with the no-interest loan scheme pilot to shape a scheme that is well-designed to meet needs in Wales.

In the longer term, the pandemic should prompt a renewed focus on financial inclusion and supporting households to build financial resilience.

*The impact of individual debt on public services during the pandemic and beyond, and to explore whether changes could be made to the approaches that public bodies are taking to debt recovery.*

- We note that research produced by the Welsh government indicates that there has been an increase in the proportion of households with low incomes in council tax arrears during the pandemic.<sup>3</sup> We welcome the proactive measures the Welsh Government has taken to spread best practice in council tax debt collection through the Council Tax Protocol for Wales. However, this protocol operates within the context of a mandatory process that requires a demand for full payment shortly after a bill is missed and escalation to court. It is vital that council tax regulations are amended to prevent counter-productive escalation of council tax

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<sup>3</sup> Charlesworth, Z. et al (2021) [\*Understanding the impact of Covid-19 on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme in Wales: Final Report\*](#). Cardiff: Welsh Government, GSR report number 53/2021.



arrears and provide greater flexibility to councils to tailor collections activity and respond to evidence of financial and other vulnerability among those in arrears.

- More generally, StepChange believes that there needs to be a statutory overarching framework that binds government debt management processes to accepted principles of good debt management practices. This could be based on the Fairness Principles contained in the Digital Economy Act 2017, which would establish clear standards around affordability and vulnerability and ensure consistency of treatment for those who owe money to government organisations.

*The impact of the pandemic on take-up of debt advice services, and to understand the implications of future demand for Welsh Government policy.*

- In 2020, around 500,000 people began a debt advice session with StepChange compared to 650,000 in 2019. After falling significantly in the early months of the pandemic, when regulators put in place payment holidays and agreed exceptional temporary measures with firms and utility providers, demand for debt advice has somewhat recovered but remains lower than at the outset of the pandemic. This is true of demand for StepChange's service in Wales as well as the wider UK.
- Future debt advice demand is difficult to predict. In addition to the varying impact of the pandemic on financially vulnerable groups, some measures put in place by regulators during the pandemic remain in place. This includes the FCA's 'tailored support guidance', which requires firms to take exceptional steps to support customers in financial difficulty, alongside agreements between utility regulators and providers. Many local authorities, housing association and landlords also appear to have adapted their approach to debt collection during the pandemic. These steps, alongside the pandemic income protection schemes, appear to have mitigated acute payment pressures for many. The extent to which these steps have fully addressed financial difficulty is likely to become clearer in coming months.

*How different groups have experienced debt issues throughout the pandemic, and whether Welsh Government policy interventions have met the needs of particular groups.*

- We have provided data in a short appendix about the make-up of StepChange clients in Wales in 2020. In keeping with the wider UK population, our experience is that certain groups with low financial resilience (for example, having lower savings or assets) and who are exposed to more risk factors are more vulnerable to problem debt. Notably, a high proportion of our clients are single parents, are younger than average and are renters. 54% of clients had an additional vulnerability such as a health problem (including mental health).
- At a national level, the experience of different groups during the pandemic reflects a combination of pre-existing debt-vulnerability and pandemic-specific impacts. In our April

'dashboard' assessment of the impact of the pandemic, we highlighted six groups as particularly vulnerable to financial difficulty and hardship arising from the pandemic:

- **Parents with a child under 5** – While parents are not significantly more likely than average to have been impacted financially, those with young children who were affected are more likely to have experienced negative impacts such as arrears on household bills and hardship, and to have resorted to credit to make ends meet.
  - **Single working age adults** – Single adults are more likely to have experienced an income fall, particularly those in younger age groups, and are significantly more likely than average to have experienced negative impacts.
  - **Those with a minority ethnicity** – Those with a minority ethnic background are significantly more likely than average to have experienced a prolonged fall in income, hardship and negative financial impacts. FCA analysis (among other sources) highlights how this experience reflects pre-existing labour market differences and notes the range of experiences among different subgroups.
  - **Single parents** – Single parents have the highest levels of problem debt, hardship, arrears and borrowing to make ends meet among standard household definitions. Single parents are less likely to have run down savings; this likely reflects lower pre-existing levels of savings.
  - **Young renters** – Renters under 35 have a higher than average likelihood of being affected by the pandemic and experiencing negative impacts—notably more so than young people with a mortgage or who live rent-free or pay board.
  - **Self-employed and insecure workers** – Those who are self-employed or run a small business are most likely to have experienced a fall in income due to the pandemic, followed by those whose hours or earnings fluctuate, many in roles typically described as 'gig economy' work. Workers in these groups are also more exposed to negative impacts.
- We are particularly concerned about those negatively impacted by the pandemic in the private rented sector who are vulnerable to housing insecurity and eviction. We comment below on the support available to this group in Wales.

*The effectiveness of mechanisms such as the Discretionary Assistance Fund and affordable credit in providing assistance to those most in need during the pandemic, and what changes could improve future delivery.*

- StepChange has called for a national package of financial support for struggling renters affected by the pandemic. Having established the Tenancy Saver Loan scheme, we note that the Welsh Government has converted the scheme into Tenancy Hardship Grant in recognition of the need to widen access to those who cannot afford to repay a no-interest loan. Awareness of the scheme is vital, particularly as the scheme may be accessed by those not receiving social security (and is targeted at those not receiving housing support through Universal Credit or legacy benefits).

- We welcome the Welsh Government’s decision to allow up to five (rather than three) Emergency Assistance Payments through the Discretionary Assistance Fund up to the end of September 2021. We do not have evidence of the specific impact of this step, but our experience of debt advice shows that over-indebtedness is often driven by repeat borrowing needs. Providing a viable alternative to desperation borrowing is likely to help prevent or mitigate debt problems.

This noted, our polling suggests that while approximately 13% of those in Wales who experienced a fall in income during the pandemic accessed local support (including support from a foodbank, other voluntary organisation or local authority), 56% borrowed to make ends meet. We estimate that 26% of this group used one or more form of high-cost credit. This suggests that while local support, including grants is somewhat effective, there is substantial unmet demand for alternatives to borrowing.

- StepChange has made the case for further investment in a range of options to meet the needs of those at risk of, or experiencing, acute financial difficulty to prevent and end harmful debt spirals. This includes wider access to grants for those who cannot afford to repay loans as well as new national no interest loan schemes. We note that the Westminster government recently announced a no-interest loan scheme pilot, including a pilot based in Wales, and articulated the ambition to test and scale this scheme up nationally.<sup>4</sup>
- Demand for emergency payments is, in part, a signal that standard social security payments are inadequate. Those relying on support are unable to meet fluctuations in essential costs or build a buffer against unpredictable expenses. Alongside the need to maintain and increase the value of social security payments in Westminster, this also speaks of the need to closely integrate social security and wider public policy measures that support financial resilience. We welcome the debate about developing a simplified ‘Welsh social security’ offer encompassing devolved support and would encourage stakeholders to consider how financial resilience can be promoted through devolved policy.

## Appendix

	Gender
Female	59%
Male	41%
Other gender identity	0.12%

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<sup>4</sup> <https://fair4allfinance.org.uk/news/plans-announced-for-new-uk-wide-no-interest-loan-scheme-pilot>

	Household
Couple with children	21%
Couple without children	14%
Single with children	22%
Single without children	42%

	Housing tenure
Renting - private landlord	34%
Living with family	15%
Mortgaged	14%
Renting - Council or Housing Association	14%
Renting - Housing Association	13%
Owns property outright	4%
Board payment (not with family)	2%
Other	2%
Shared ownership (mortgage and rent)	1%

	Employment status
Full-time employed	35%
Part-time employed	15%
Unemployed: looking for work	15%
Not working due to illness or disability	14%
Unemployed: not looking for work	10%
Retired	4%
Carer	3%
Student	2%
Zero hours contract	2%

	Priority arrears <sup>5</sup>
--	-------------------------------

<sup>5</sup> % clients in Wales with responsibility for that bill and in arrears.

Council tax	35%
Gas	26%
Electricity	27%
Water	33%
Rent arrears	25%
Mortgage	17%

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# Adroddiad Gwaddol y Bumed Senedd

Mawrth 2021



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Senedd Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
CF99 1SN**

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E-bost: **[SeneddCymunedau@senedd.cymru](mailto:SeneddCymunedau@senedd.cymru)**  
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# Adroddiad Gwaddol y Bumed Senedd

Mawrth 2021





# Am y Pwyllgor

Sefydlwyd y Pwyllgor ar 28 Mehefin 2016. Ceir ei gylch gwaith yn:  
[www.senedd.cymru/SeneddCymunedau](http://www.senedd.cymru/SeneddCymunedau)

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## Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor:



**John Griffiths AS**  
Llafur Cymru

## Aelodau cyfredol y Pwyllgor:



**Dawn Bowden AS**  
Llafur Cymru



**Huw Irranca-Davies AS**  
Llafur Cymru



**Delyth Jewell AS**  
Plaid Cymru



**Laura Anne Jones AS**  
Ceidwadwyr Cymreig



**Mandy Jones AS**  
Grŵp y Gynghrair Annibynnol  
dros Ddiwygio

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## Rhagair y Cadeirydd

Rwy'n falch o waith y Pwyllgor dros y pum mlynedd diwethaf. Rydym wedi ymdrin ag ystod eang o faterion, polisi a deddfwriaeth. Rydym wedi helpu i wthio materion i fyny'r agenda wleidyddol, fel ein gwaith cynnar yn edrych ar brofiadau ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches, a helpodd i lywio Cenedl Noddfa – Cynllun Ffoaduriaid a Cheiswyr Lloches Llywodraeth Cymru. Rydym wedi tynnu sylw'n gyson at yr anghydraddoldeb a'r annhegwch sy'n parhau i ddifetha ein cymunedau. Y diffyg o ran cyfleoedd a chanlyniadau cyfartal. Yr angen am strategaeth fwy cynhwysfawr sy'n canolbwyntio mwy ar fynd i'r afael â thlodi yng Nghymru. Roedd y pryderon hyn yn rhan o'n gwaith dwy gydol tymor y Senedd hon, ac maent yn parhau. Rydym hefyd wedi arwain y ddadl wleidyddol gyda gwaith yn edrych ar ddatganoli budd-daliadau lles, a rhoi'r bleidlais i garcharorion. Rydym wedi dangos hyblygrwydd i ymateb i ddigwyddiadau cenedlaethol, fel ein gwaith yn edrych ar ddiogelwch tân mewn adeiladau uchel iawn yn syth ar ôl y digwyddiadau erchyll yn Grenfell; a dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf ar effaith pandemig COVID-19.

Mae ein dull systematig o wneud gwaith dilynol wedi golygu, drwy gydol y tymor, ein bod wedi parhau i geisio cynnydd gwirioneddol ac ystyrlon i fynd i'r afael â phla cysgu ar y stryd; a chyflymu'r broses o weithredu Deddf Trais yn erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (Cymru) 2015. Byddwn yn annog holl bwyllgorau'r Senedd yn y tymor nesaf i flaenoriaethu gwaith dilynol oherwydd gall hwn fod y dull mwyaf effeithiol o sbarduno newid.

Hoffwn ddiolch i'r holl randdeiliaid a dinasyddion sydd wedi helpu i lywio ein gwaith. Yn benodol, y dinasyddion hynny sydd wedi rhannu eu profiad byw eu hunain, sydd wedi bod yn heriol yn aml, ac wedi ymwneud ag amrywiaeth o faterion o geisio lloches; cysgu ar y stryd; cydbwysedd rhwng rianta a gwaith; ac, yn fwyaf diweddar, diogelwch byw mewn adeiladau uchel iawn. Mae'r profiad byw hwn wir yn ychwanegu haen ychwanegol at ein gwaith craffu, a'r argymhellion a wnawn ar gyfer newid. Hoffwn hefyd ddiolch i aelodau'r pwyllgor, o'r gorffennol a'r presennol, ynghyd â'n tîm ymroddedig a phroffesiynol o glercod pwyllgorau ac ymchwilwyr am eu gwasanaeth a'u cefnogaeth amhrisiadwy.

### **John Griffiths AS**

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor

## 1. Cylch gwaith a llwyth gwaith y Pwyllgor

Mae ein cylch gwaith yn eang iawn ac mae hyn yn golygu y bŵm yn gyfrifol am gyfran sylweddol o'r holl deddfwriaeth a drafodwyd gan y Senedd. Credwn y dylid ystyried hyn wrth lunio strwythurau a chylchoedd gwaith pwyllgorau yn y Chweched Senedd.

- 1.** Mae holl bwyllgorau'r Senedd yn y tymor cyfredol wedi cael cylchoedd gwaith eang iawn. Fodd bynnag, mae ehangder ein cylch gwaith ynghyd â'n llwyth gwaith deddfwriaethol trwm drwy gydol y Senedd hon wedi ei gwneud yn arbennig o heriol rheoli ein capasiti ar adegau penodol yn ystod tymor y Senedd hon.
- 2.** Roedd hyn yn her hefyd i'n Pwyllgor blaenorol yn y Pedwerydd Cynulliad; y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol, yr oedd ei gylch gwaith hefyd yn cynnwys diwylliant, y cyfryngau, chwaraeon a'r Gymraeg. Argymhellodd yn ei adroddiad etifeddiaeth y dylid sefydlu Pwyllgor Cyfathrebu penodedig yn y Pumed Cynulliad.<sup>1</sup> Rhoddwyd yr argymhelliad hwn ar waith, a sefydlwyd Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu ar ddechrau'r Pumed Cynulliad. Daeth elfen chwaraeon cylch gwaith y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol yn rhan o'r Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon.
- 3.** Mae'r lleihad hwn yn y cylch gwaith i'w groesawu, ond mae wedi parhau i fod yn anhygoel o eang, ac oherwydd hynny mae wedi bod yn heriol rhoi sylw llawn i'r holl feysydd rydym yn gyfrifol amdanynt. Mae hyn cyn i ni ystyried effaith llwyth gwaith deddfwriaethol trwm, a COVID-19, ar ein rhaglen waith.

### Cylch gwaith y Pwyllgor:

Sefydlwyd y Pwyllgor ar 28 Mehefin 2016 i archwilio deddfwriaeth a dwyn Llywodraeth Cymru i gyfrif drwy graffu ar ei gwariant, ei gweinyddiaeth a'i pholisi yn cwmpasu'r meysydd a ganlyn (ond heb fod yn gyfyngedig iddynt): llywodraeth leol; tai; adfywio, cydlyniant a diogelwch cymunedol; trechu tlodi; cyfle cyfartal a hawliau dynol. Ar 13 Tachwedd 2019, newidiwyd cylch gwaith y Pwyllgor i gynnwys y gallu i arfer y swyddogaethau nad ydynt yn rhai cyllidebol a

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<sup>1</sup> Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol, Adroddiad Etifeddiaeth y Pedwerydd Cynulliad, Mawrth 2016

nodir yn Rheol Sefydlog 18A.2 mewn perthynas ag atebolrwydd a llywodraethu Ombwdsmon Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus Cymru.

- 4.** Gwnaethom dynnu sylw at y mater hwn yn ein hymateb i'r Pwyllgor ar Ddiwygio Etholiadol y Cynulliad a ofynnodd am ein barn ynghylch effaith unrhyw newid ym maint y Cynulliad ar y pryd ar bwyllgorau.<sup>2</sup> Mae llawer o'r hyn a nodir gennym yn y llythyr hwn, yn ein barn ni, yn parhau i fod yn berthnasol, a dylid ei ystyried wrth ddatblygu strwythurau a chylchoedd gwaith pwyllgorau yn y Chweched Senedd. Mae rhai o'r pwyntiau allweddol wedi'u nodi isod.
- 5.** Wrth edrych ar ddeddfwrfeydd eraill ar draws y DU, dim ond y Senedd sydd ag un pwyllgor sy'n cyfuno'r portffolio cydraddoldeb â'r portffolio tai a llywodraeth leol o fewn cylch gwaith un pwyllgor. Senedd yr Alban yw'r cymharydd agosaf oherwydd, fel yn y Senedd gyfredol, mae ei phwyllgorau'n craffu ar bolisi a deddfwriaeth. Rhannodd y ddwy elfen hyn o'n portffolio rhwng dau bwyllgor yn ystod sesiwn 2016 - 2021, sef y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol a'r Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau. Yn ogystal, roedd agweddau eraill ar ein gwaith yn cyd-fynd â gwaith pwyllgorau eraill yn Senedd yr Alban, er enghraifft, yn ystod ein gwaith ar ddatganoli budd-daliadau, gwnaethom gyfarfod â'r Pwyllgor Nawdd Cymdeithasol.
- 6.** Mae gan Gynulliad Gogledd Iwerddon fodel tebyg, gyda phwyllgorau yn ymgymryd â gwaith craffu ar bolisi ac ar deddfwriaeth. Unwaith eto, mae ein portffolio yn cael ei rannu rhwng dau bwyllgor; y Pwyllgor Gweithredol (sy'n cwmpasu cydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol fel rhan o'i gylch gwaith); a'r Pwyllgor Cymunedau (sy'n cwmpasu tai a llywodraeth leol).
- 7.** Mae'r gymhariaeth â San Steffan yn llai uniongyrchol, gan nad yw pwyllgorau dethol yn gyfrifol am graffu deddfwriaethol ar Filiau a gyflwynir. Fodd bynnag, mae'n werth nodi eu bod hefyd yn rhannu eu gwaith craffu ar bolisi ar gyfer materion o fewn ein cylch gwaith rhwng dau bwyllgor: Y Pwyllgor Tai, Cymunedau a Llywodraeth Leol, a'r Pwyllgor Menywod a Chydraddoldeb. Mae pwyllgor ychwanegol hefyd; y Cyd-bwyllgor ar Hawliau Dynol, sy'n cynnwys aelodau o bob rhan o Dŷ'r Cyffredin a Thŷ'r Arglwyddi.
- 8.** Rydym yn ymwybodol bod Pwyllgor Dethol ar gyfer pob adran o'r llywodraeth yn San Steffan, ac rydym yn nodi rhinweddau'r dull hwnnw. Fodd bynnag, ceir ffactorau sy'n gwneud hyn yn fwy heriol yng nghyd-destun Cymru -

<sup>2</sup> Llythyr gan Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau at Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor ar Ddiwygio Etholiadol y Cynulliad, 27 Ionawr 2020

yn bennaf am nad oes adrannau llywodraeth ar wahân yng Nghymru gydag Ysgrifennyddion Parhaol ar wahân. Mae gan Lywodraeth Cymru un Ysgrifennydd Parhaol, ond yn Whitehall, mae gan bob adran weinidogol Ysgrifennydd Parhaol sy'n gyfrifol am redeg yr adran o ddydd i ddydd. Mae'r Ysgrifennydd Parhaol yn atebol i Senedd y DU am stiwardio cyllideb yr adran a sicrhau gwerth am arian. Gan y gall ad-drefnu gweinidogol yn aml gynnwys newidiadau sylweddol o ran cyfrifoldeb, mae strwythur o'r fath yn golygu ei bod yn fwy tebygol y gallai strwythurau pwyllgor ymddangos yn hen neu fel nad ydynt yn adlewyrchu strwythurau Llywodraeth. Fodd bynnag, gan roi hyn o'r neilltu, fel mater o egwyddor, rydym o'r farn ei bod yn gwneud mwy o synnwyr cael portffolios pwyllgorau sy'n adlewyrchiad agosach o bortffolios gweinidogol.

## Llwyth gwaith deddfwriaethol

**9.** Er gwaethaf y newid ym mhortffolio'r Pwyllgor hwn o'i gymharu â'n Pwyllgor blaenorol yn y Pedwerydd Cynulliad, mae cyfran y ddeddfwriaeth yr ydym wedi'i hystyried yn debyg; rydym wedi craffu ar 27 y cant o'r holl ddeddfwriaeth a gyflwynwyd yn y Senedd hon. Yn gyfan gwbl, rydym wedi ystyried 6 o'r 22 Bil a gyflwynwyd. Byddai'r ffigur hwn wedi bod yn uwch pe na bai Deddf Rheoleiddio Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig (Cymru) 2018 wedi cael ei chyfeirio at y Pwyllgor Materion Allanol a Deddfwriaeth Ychwanegol, oherwydd roeddem eisoes yn ystyried dau Fil arall ar yr un pryd pan gafodd ei chyflwyno. Roeddem hefyd yn disgwyl ystyried y Bil Partneriaethau Cymdeithasol, ond gohiriwyd cyflwyno'r Bil hwn oherwydd y pandemig. Mae cyfran uchel o'r ddeddfwriaeth a gyflwynwyd yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf yn ymwneud â thai. Mae'n ymddangos yn debygol y bydd unrhyw bwyllgor sydd â thai o fewn ei gylch gwaith yn parhau i fod yn gyfrifol am ymgymryd â chryn dipyn o waith craffu deddfwriaethol yn y Senedd nesaf. Hoffem i hyn gael ei ystyried pan gytunir ar gylchoedd gwaith pwyllgorau yn y Chweched Senedd.

**10.** Mae gwaith craffu deddfwriaethol yn fusnes craidd, ond gan nad oes gennym unrhyw reolaeth dros pryd y cyflwynir Biliau, ac nid yw ein barn ar amserlennu bob amser yn cael ei gweithredu, gall fod yn anoddach i ni reoli ein llwythi gwaith ehangach, a sicrhau y gallwn ymgymryd â'r gwaith craffu ar bolisiâu efallai yr hoffem ei wneud.

**11.** Nid yw mater ein cylch gwaith eang, na'r llwyth gwaith deddfwriaethol trwm yn arbennig o broblemus ar ei ben ei hun, ond mae'r cyfuniad o'r ddau wedi ei gwneud hi'n anoddach i ni reoli portffolio mor eang.

**12.** Byddem yn ailadrodd ein galwadau yn ein llythyr at y Pwyllgor ar Ddiwygio Etholiadol y Cynulliad y dylid ystyried llwythi gwaith deddfwriaethol wrth ddatblygu strwythurau pwyllgorau yn y Chweched Senedd.



## 2. Ein harferion gwaith

Rydym wedi datblygu nifer o ffyrdd o weithio sy'n effeithiol yn ein barn ni, a gallent fod yn ddefnyddiol i bwyllgorau'r dyfodol eu hystyried.

**13.** Yn ystod tymor y Senedd hon, rydym wedi defnyddio dulliau ffurfiol ac anffurfiol i gasglu tystiolaeth ac ymgysylltu â phobl Cymru i lywio ein gwaith. Ar gyfer pob un o'r materion polisi a deddfwriaethol rydym wedi'u hystyried, gwnaethom ffurfio cylch gorchwyl a gofyn am farn sefydliadau neu unigolion â diddordeb. Mae pob ymchwiliad neu faes craffu ar Fil wedi cael ei gyhoeddi ar ein gwefan, fel arfer ynghyd â chais ffurfiol am dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig, ac fe'i cyhoeddwyd drwy ein sianeli cyfryngau cymdeithasol ni a'r Senedd.

**14.** Mae'r rhan fwyaf o'n gwaith casglu tystiolaeth wedi bod drwy gyfarfodydd ffurfiol pwyllgorau, lle gwahoddwyd tystion i gyflwyno tystiolaeth i lywio ein hystyriaethau o amrywiaeth o feysydd polisi a deddfwriaeth. Cyn i'r cyfyngiadau symud ddechrau ym mis Mawrth 2020, dyrannwyd slot cyfarfod wythnosol i ni ymgymryd â'n busnes. Roedd y slotiau a ddyrannwyd bob yn ail ddydd Mercher a dydd Iau, gan ein galluogi i gyfarfod ar fore Mercher a thrwy'r dydd ar ddydd Iau, bob yn ail wythnos. Defnyddiwyd y slotiau hyn yn bennaf i gynnal cyfarfodydd ffurfiol ar ystâd y Senedd, a fynychwyd gan yr Aelodau a'r tystion a wahoddwyd yn bersonol gan amlaf; defnyddiwyd cyfleusterau fideogynadleda o bryd i'w gilydd er mwyn hwyluso presenoldeb tystion nad oeddent yn gallu dod yn bersonol.

**15.** Mae ymgysylltu â dinasyddion Cymru wedi bod yn elfen hanfodol o'n gwaith trwy gydol tymor y Senedd hon. Yn ogystal â'r sesiynau tystiolaeth ffurfiol, gwnaethom hefyd ddefnyddio dulliau anffurfiol o gasglu barn gan bobl a fyddai'n llai tebygol neu na fyddent yn gallu dod i gyfarfod ffurfiol. Gwnaethom ddyrannu rhai o'n slotiau cyfarfod yn benodol er mwyn cynnal ymweliadau anffurfiol a grwpiau ffocws i gyfarfod ag unigolion y mae meysydd polisi yn effeithio'n uniongyrchol arnynt. Roedd y dulliau anffurfiol hyn yn arbennig o ddefnyddiol i glywed gan bobl â phrofiad byw fel rhan o'n gwaith ar roi'r bleidlais i garcharorion, cysgu ar y stryd, a ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches. Defnyddiwyd arolygon ar-lein hefyd i gasglu barn cynulleidfa ehangach, na fyddent efallai wedi ymateb i'r galwadau ffurfiol am dystiolaeth ysgrifenedig.

**16.** Mae cyfraniad dinasyddion at y gwaith hwn wedi llywio ein dewis o ran gwaith, argymhellion ac allbynnau yn uniongyrchol. Er enghraifft, yn ystod ein gwaith craffu ar gysgu ar y stryd, ar ôl ymgysylltu'n helaeth â phobl â phrofiad byw,

gwnaethom gynnal ymchwiliad penodol pellach i broblemau pobl sy'n cysgu ar y stryd sydd â phroblemau iechyd meddwl a chamddefnyddio sylweddau. Ni fyddem wedi canolbwyntio ar y materion penodol hyn heb glywed yn uniongyrchol gan y rhai sydd â'r profiad byw. Mae ein gwaith ymgysylltu â dinasyddion wedi bod yn agwedd arbennig o werthfawr ar ein gwaith drwy gydol y tymor hwn. Rydym yn gobeithio adeiladu ar hyn yn ystod tymor nesaf y Senedd.

**17.** Mewn ymateb i'r cyfyngiadau symud cenedlaethol a ddechreuodd ym mis Mawrth 2020, gwnaethom addasu ein ffyrdd o weithio er mwyn gallu cynnal cyfarfodydd yn rhithwir. Mae ein holl gyfarfodydd ers hynny wedi bod yn gwbl rithwir, gydag Aelodau, staff a thystion yn mynychu o wahanol leoliadau.

**18.** Fe wnaeth hyn ein galluogi i barhau â'n gwaith, a dechreuon ni drwy gynnal ymchwiliad i effaith COVID-19 ar faterion yn ymwneud â'n portffolio. Gwnaethom ddefnyddio Zoom i gynnal cyfarfodydd ffurfiol pwyllgorau gyda Gweinidogion Llywodraeth Cymru a sefydliadau allanol. Yn ystod y cyfnod hwn, gwnaethom hefyd gynnal gwaith craffu Cyfnod 2 ar ddau Fil. Cafodd trafodion Cyfnod 2 eu cynnal o bell hefyd, ond mynychodd y Cadeirydd a'r Clerc o'r un lleoliad yn Nhŷ Hywel er mwyn darparu cyngor gweithdrefnol.

**19.** Mae ein defnydd o'r cyfleusterau hyn wedi dangos y gall busnes ffurfiol y Senedd barhau hyd yn oed pan na all Aelodau fod yn yr un lleoliad yn gorfforol, ac mae'n pwysleisio manteision ehangach mynychu o bell ar gynyddu cyfranogiad mewn busnes.

**20.** Roedd ein gwaith cyn y pandemig ar gynyddu amrywiaeth mewn llywodraeth leol yn cydnabod y cyfraniad gwerthfawr y gallai mynychu o bell mewn cyfarfodydd ffurfiol ei wneud o ran galluogi ystod ehangach o bobl i gymryd rhan mewn [llywodraeth leol](#).<sup>3</sup> Ers mis Mawrth 2020, mae natur rithwir holl fusnes y Senedd wedi profi bod mynychu o bell mor effeithiol â mynychu cyfarfod yn gorfforol. Mae hefyd wedi dod â manteision ychwanegol o ganlyniad i beidio ag angen teithio, fel gwell cydbwysedd rhwng bywyd a gwaith, mwy o amser ar gyfer cyfrifoldebau gofalu, a'r gallu i gymryd rhan mewn ystod ehangach o gyfarfodydd. Rydym wedi croesawu'r ffordd newydd hon o weithio ac rydym yn credu y dylid sicrhau rôl ehangach i fynychu o bell mewn cyfarfodydd pwyllgorau'r Senedd pan gaiff y cyfyngiadau eu codi.

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<sup>3</sup>[Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, Amrywiaeth ym maes llywodraeth leol, Ebrill 2019](#)

**21.** Rydym hefyd wedi gallu defnyddio cyfleusterau Zoom a Microsoft Teams i barhau â'n gwaith ymgysylltu â dinasyddion yn ystod y pandemig. Roedd natur ein gwaith wrth geisio deall goblygiadau COVID-19, yn enwedig pan wnaethom ystyried yr effaith ar y sector gwirfoddol, yn golygu ei bod yn hanfodol i ni allu clywed gan bobl â phrofiad uniongyrchol. Rydym bob amser wedi teimlo bod grwpiau ffocws yn fforwm defnyddiol i gasglu'r safbwyntiau hyn, felly yn lle teithio i gwrdd â phobl o bob rhan o Gymru, gwnaethom gynnal y rhain trwy Microsoft Teams.

**22.** Roedd y manteision ehangach o gynnal y cyfarfodydd hyn yn rhithwir yn amlwg i'r Aelodau a'r cyfranogwyr; yn lle teithio i leoliad penodol i gwrdd wyneb yn wyneb, roedd cyfranogwyr yn gallu cyfrannu o'u cartrefi neu swyddfeydd eu hunain, ac roedd hyn yn llawer mwy cyfleus i bawb a gymerodd ran. Mae ymgysylltu wyneb yn wyneb fel arfer yn darparu buddion ehangach na chyfarfod â dinasyddion yn unig, megis drwy fod yn dyst i brosiectau uniongyrchol, felly bydd yn bwysig bod pwyllgorau yn parhau i hwyluso cyfarfodydd o'r fath pan fydd y cyfyngiadau'n caniatáu. Fodd bynnag, o ystyried eu manteision o ran galluogi cyfranogiad ehangach, dylid gwneud mwy o ddefnydd o gyfarfodydd rhithwir hefyd fel rhan o ddull cymysg ar gyfer ymgysylltu â dinasyddion yn y dyfodol.

## Gwaith dilynol ar waith blaenorol

**23.** Fe wnaethom benderfynu yn gynnar yn nhymor y Senedd mai craffu ar y cynnydd a wnaed wrth weithredu ein hargymhellion fyddai yn un o'r ffyrdd mwyaf effeithiol o sicrhau bod newid yn digwydd o ganlyniad i'n gwaith. Mae gwaith dilynol o'r fath wedi bod yn rhan annatod o'n gweithgareddau drwy gydol y Senedd hon.

**24.** Ein maes gwaith cyntaf yn 2016 oedd craffu ar ôl y broses ddeddfu ar Ddeddf Trais yn erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (Cymru) 2015, a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar ba un a oedd y Ddeddf honno'n gweithio.<sup>4</sup> Ers hynny, gwnaethom barhau i adolygu'r ddeddfwriaeth o bryd i'w gilydd trwy gynnal sesiynau tystiolaeth pellach yn 2018 a 2020 i asesu'r cynnydd a wnaed. Roedd hyn yn rhan bwysig o'n gwaith wrth ystyried effaith pandemig COVID-19 ar y gwahanol agweddau o fewn ein cylch gwaith.

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<sup>4</sup>Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, A yw Deddf Trais yn erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (Cymru) 2015 yn gweithio? Rhagfyr 2016

**25.** Cyhoeddwyd ein hadroddiad cyntaf ar gysgu ar y stryd ym **mis Ebrill 2018**<sup>5</sup>, ac ers hynny rydym wedi gwneud gwaith dilynol helaeth i asesu cynnydd a sicrhau bod newidiadau'n cael eu gweithredu. Fel rhan o hyn, rydym wedi parhau i bwysu am y newid sylweddol a oedd yn angenrheidiol yn ein barn ni er mwyn cyflawni ein huchelgais i roi terfyn ar gysgu ar y stryd. Cyhoeddwyd adroddiad dilynol gennym a oedd yn canolbwyntio ar iechyd meddwl a chamddefnyddio sylweddau ymhlith pobl sy'n cysgu ar y stryd ym mis **Rhagfyr 2019**.<sup>6</sup> Roedd hwn yn faes blaenoriaeth i ni drwy gydol y Senedd hon a gwnaethom barhau i graffu ar Lywodraeth Cymru ynghylch y mater, gan gynnwys drwy ein gwaith ar effaith COVID-19.

**26.** Ers trychineb Grenfell, mae diogelwch tân mewn adeiladau uchel iawn wedi bod yn faes blaenoriaeth i'n gwaith. Gwnaethom ddechrau ar ein gwaith drwy ymchwilio i ddiogelwch **adeiladau uchel iawn yn y sector cymdeithasol**. Gwnaethom ddilyn hyn trwy edrych ar adeiladu'r sector preifat<sup>7</sup>, a'n darn sylweddol olaf o waith ar ddiwedd y Senedd hon, sef ymateb i'r ymgynghoriad ar Bapur Gwyn Llywodraeth Cymru - Adeiladau mwy diogel yng Nghymru.

**27.** Credwn fod ein hymrwymiad i wneud gwaith dilynol ar waith blaenorol wedi bod yn effeithiol iawn o ran sicrhau bod y materion hynny'n parhau i gael y ffocws sydd ei angen i arwain at newid. Trwy barhau i fynd ar drywydd y materion hyn gwnaethom ddangos i Lywodraeth Cymru nad yw ein gwaith yn dod i ben ar ôl cyhoeddi adroddiad a'n bod yn disgwyl gweld newidiadau o ganlyniad i'n hargymhellion. Cyflawni gwaith dilynol yn y ffordd hon yw un o'r ffyrdd mwyaf effeithiol o graffu ar bolisiau a gweithredoedd Llywodraeth Cymru, a chredwn y dylai'r dull hwn gael ei ymgorffori yn arferion gwaith pwyllgorau'r dyfodol.

## Gwaith ar y cyd rhwng pwyllgorau

**28.** O ystyried y gorgyffwrdd rhwng cylch gwaith gwahanol bwyllgorau, rydym wedi gwneud gwaith ar y cyd ag eraill lle bo hynny'n briodol. Fe wnaethom gynnal cyfarfod ar y cyd â'r Pwyllgor Cyllid a'r Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg, a oedd yn arbennig o werthfawr o ran dod â gwahanol safbwyntiau ynghyd i graffu ar sut mae effaith penderfyniadau cyllidebol yn cael eu hasesu. Cafodd yr argymhellion

<sup>5</sup>Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, *Bywyd ar y strydoedd: atal a mynd i'r afael â chysgu ar y stryd yng Nghymru*, Ebrill 2018

<sup>6</sup>Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, *Gwaith dilynol ar gysgu ar y stryd: Gwasanaethau iechyd meddwl a gwasanaethau camddefnyddio sylweddau*, Rhagfyr 2019

<sup>7</sup>Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, *Diogelwch tân mewn adeiladau uchel iawn (sector preifat)*, Tachwedd 2018

a wnaethom yn ein hadroddiad eu hystyried ymhellach gan dri phwyllgor yn ystod ein gwaith craffu ar y cyllidebau drafft ar gyfer y blynyddoedd dilynol.

**29.** Gwnaethom ganfod fod y dull gweithredu ar y cyd hwn yn effeithiol a chredwn y gallai fod rôl fwy amlwg i bwyllgorau ei chwarae wrth weithio gyda'i gilydd ar faterion o ddiddordeb, yn enwedig os yw'r cylchoedd gwaith yn aros yn eang yn y Chweched Senedd. Nid yw gwaith ar y cyd wedi bod yn hawdd ei hwyluso bob amser pan ddyrennir slotiau cyfarfod penodol i bwyllgorau, sy'n anodd gwro oddi wrthynt. Fodd bynnag, gallai dull mwy hyblyg o drefnu cyfarfodydd, megis rhagor o gyfleoedd i ddefnyddio ffurfiau rhithwir neu hybrid, ein galluogi i ddefnyddio cyfarfodydd ar y cyd yn amlach yn y dyfodol.

### 3. Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd

Mae effaith y pandemig wedi golygu nad ydym wedi gallu ymgymryd â'r holl waith y byddem wedi dymuno. Hefyd, mae rhai materion rydym o'r farn y byddai'n fuddiol cynnal gwaith craffu arnynt yn ystod y Senedd nesaf.

**30.** Mae effaith gyfunol y pandemig a'r llwyth gwaith deddfwriaethol wedi golygu nad ydym wedi gallu gwneud yr holl waith yr ydym wedi penderfynu ei wneud. Mae rhywfaint o hyn yn waith dilynol ac mae rhai darnau newydd. Rydym yn credu y byddai'n ddefnyddiol pe bai pwyllgor/pwyllgorau olynol yn y dyfodol yn ystyried edrych ar y materion hyn yn fanylach.

#### Gwaith dilynol COVID-19

##### Cysgu ar y stryd a digartrefedd

**31.** Mae digartrefedd, ac yn enwedig cysgu ar y stryd, wedi bod yn flaenoriaeth i ni drwy gydol tymor y Senedd hon, ond fe ddaeth yn fwy amlwg pa mor bwysig yw mynd i'r afael â'r mater hwn yn ystod pandemig COVID-19. Gwnaethom graffu ar weithredoedd Llywodraeth Cymru yn ein sesiwn graffu gyntaf gyda'r Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol ym mis Mai 2021, a gwneud gwaith dilynol ar hyn tan ein cyfarfod olaf ym mis Mawrth 2021. Rydym yn croesawu'r ffocws a roddwyd i'r mater hwn gan Lywodraeth Cymru i sicrhau bod llety'n cael ei ddarparu ar gyfer y rhai mewn angen. Rydym yn canmol y gwaith rhagorol a wnaed yn y sector i roi cartref i dros 7000 o bobl ers dechrau'r pandemig, ond credwn yn gryf bod angen i'r gwaith hwn barhau er mwyn atal pob math o ddigartrefedd. Rydym yn ymwybodol bod rhai o'r rhai a gafodd lety dros dro bellach yn ôl ar y stryd. Er bod y nifer yn is na chyn y pandemig, rydym yn dal i bryderu y gallai'r nifer barhau i gynyddu os nad ydym yn canolbwyntio'n barhaus ar y gwasanaethau sydd eu hangen.

**32.** Rydym yn arbennig o bryderus y gallai nifer y bobl ddigartref gynyddu'n sylweddol pe bai'r amddiffyniadau cyfredol sy'n cyfyngu ar droi allan ac yn ymestyn cyfnodau rhybudd yn dod i ben. Gwnaethom godi hyn gyda'r Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol ar 11 Mawrth 2021, a chadarnhaodd [Datganiad Cabinet](#) dilynol ar 17 Mawrth y byddai'r amddiffyniadau yn aros yn eu lle tan ddiwedd Mehefin 2021. Rydym yn croesawu'r estyniad hwn, ond credwn y dylid monitro'r

sefyllfa i asesu a oes angen estyniad pellach. Rydym yn argymhell y dylai ein pwyllgor olynol yn y Chweched Senedd barhau i graffu ar effaith COVID-19 ar ddiartrefedd fel mater o flaenoriaeth frys.

### Y sector gwirfoddol

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**33.** Gwnaethom gynnal ymchwiliad byr i effaith y pandemig ar y sector gwirfoddol. Amlygodd ein hadroddiad a gyhoeddwyd ym mis Ionawr 2021 y rôl hanfodol yr oedd y sector gwirfoddol wedi'i chwarae wrth ymateb i'r pandemig. Gwnaethom nifer o argymhellion, gan gynnwys ynghylch seilwaith y sector gwirfoddol yng Nghymru; adnoddau a chyllid; y sector gwirfoddol BAME a'r rôl y gall y sector ei chwarae wrth adfer yn sgil COVID-19. Cawsom ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i'n hargymhellion yn ystod wythnos olaf busnes y pwyllgorau. Gwnaeth Llywodraeth Cymru dderbyn neu dderbyn mewn egwyddor pob un o'n hargymhellion.<sup>8 9</sup> Rydym yn credu y dylai pwyllgor yn y dyfodol ystyried ac adolygu'r modd y caiff yr argymhellion hyn eu gweithredu.

### Y ddyletswydd economaidd-gymdeithasol

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**34.** Yn dilyn oedi oherwydd effaith y pandemig, cychwynnwyd y ddyletswydd economaidd-gymdeithasol ddiwedd mis Mawrth. Mae'n ei gwneud yn ofynnol i awdurdodau cyhoeddus rhestredig ystyried sut y gall eu penderfyniadau strategol sicrhau gwell canlyniadau i bobl sy'n wynebu anfantais economaidd-gymdeithasol. Trwy amrywiol agweddau ar ein gwaith yn ystod y Senedd hon, rydym wedi galw dro ar ôl tro am gychwyn y ddyletswydd. Yn ein hadroddiad ar effaith COVID-19 ar anghydraddoldebau, gwnaethom argymhell y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru gadw at ysbryd a bwriad y ddyletswydd fel rhan o'i holl benderfyniadau nes iddi gael ei chychwyn, a datblygu trefniadau dros dro i fonitro sut mae'n bodloni ysbryd y ddyletswydd cyn cychwyn pob rhan ohoni.

**35.** Credwn y dylai'r ddyletswydd economaidd-gymdeithasol fod yn un o'r arfau allweddol yng nghynlluniau Llywodraeth Cymru i ailadeiladu yn dilyn COVID-19. Felly, rydym yn argymhell i'n pwyllgor olynol y gallai hwn fod yn faes blaenoriaeth gynnar, yn benodol o ran sut neu a yw'r ddyletswydd wedi dylanwadu ar benderfyniadau a gymerwyd gan Lywodraeth Cymru ac awdurdodau rhestredig.

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<sup>8</sup>Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, Effaith COVID-19 ar y sector gwirfoddol, Chwefror 2021

<sup>9</sup>Ymateb Llywodraeth Cymru i'r adroddiad ar effaith COVID-19 ar y sector gwirfoddol, Mawrth 2021



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## Tlodi

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**36.** Mae nifer yr achosion o dlodi yng Nghymru a'u heffaith wedi bod yn faes sy'n peri pryder sylweddol i ni, a'r pwyllgor blaenorol. Rydym wedi dadlau dro ar ôl tro dros yr angen am strategaeth drawsbynciol a chynhwysfawr i fynd i'r afael â thlodi, gyda thargedau clir, diffiniadau o'r hyn y gellir ei gyflawni, a cherrig milltir y gellir asesu cynnydd yn eu herbyn. Mae wedi bod yn destun siom nad yw hyn erioed wedi cael ei dderbyn na'i weithredu gan Lywodraeth Cymru. Trafodwyd effaith COVID-19 ar bobl ar incwm isel yn ein hadroddiad ar y pandemig, Amlygu'r Materion.<sup>10</sup> Gwnaethom dynnu sylw at y ffaith bod tlodi wedi bod yn ffactor allweddol yn y pandemig, o gyfraddau marwolaethau i'r risg o golli gwaith neu incwm, a chyrhaeddiad addysgol i dai gorlawn. Rhaid i'r effaith ar gartrefi incwm isel fod yn ystyriaeth allweddol i Lywodraeth Cymru yn ei chynlluniau ar gyfer adfer, ac rydym yn argymhell bod ein pwyllgor olynol yn parhau i flaenoriaethu dull Llywodraeth Cymru o fynd i'r afael â thlodi.

## Cynllun Gweithredu Cydraddoldeb Hiliol

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**37.** Mae effaith COVID-19 ar bobl o gymunedau Du, Asiaidd a Lleafrifoedd Ethnig wedi bod yn sylweddol dros y flwyddyn ddiwethaf, ac mae wedi bod yn faes ffocws yn ein gwaith COVID-19. Argymhellodd adroddiad yr Athro Ogbonna y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ailddechrau gwaith ar ddatblygu Cynllun Gweithredu Cydraddoldeb Hiliol ar unwaith. Bydd yr adroddiad yn cael ei gyhoeddi at ddibenion ymgynghori erbyn diwedd mis Mawrth 2021, ac rydym yn argymhell bod ein pwyllgor olynol yn blaenoriaethu craffu ar gynnydd wrth ddatblygu'r cynllun a gweithredu ei gamau.

## Gwaith dilynol arall

### Beichiogrwydd, mamolaeth a gwaith

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**38.** Fel yr ydym wedi amlinellu uchod, nodwedd allweddol o'n dull gweithredu oedd gwneud gwaith dilynol rheolaidd ar gynnydd o ran gweithredu ein hargymhellion. Fel rhan o'n gwaith yn nhymor olaf y Senedd hon, gwnaethom gytuno i wneud gwaith dilynol ar ein hymchwiliad i feichiogrwydd, mamolaeth a gwaith. Ym mis Medi 2018 gwnaethom gyhoeddi ein hadroddiad.<sup>11</sup> Fodd bynnag, ar adeg ei gyhoeddi, roedd Llywodraeth Cymru wrthi'n gwneud nifer o ddarnau

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<sup>10</sup> Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, Amlygu'r Materion: angydraddoldeb a'r pandemig, Awst 2020

<sup>11</sup> Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, Wrth eich gwaith: rhianta a chyflogaeth yng Nghymru, Gorffennaf 2018



gwahanol o waith, megis yr adolygiad o gydraddoldeb rhywiol; y Comisiwn Gwaith Teg; ac adolygiad o gaffael cyhoeddus, a allai effeithio ar y broses o weithredu rhai o'r argymhellion. Mae'n amlwg hefyd bod y pandemig wedi cael effaith ar y rhai sy'n cydbwysu gwaith a gofal plant. Roeddem wedi bwriadu ailedrych ar yr argymhellion trwy sesiynau tystiolaeth lafar ac ymgysylltu â dinasyddion. Fodd bynnag, o ganlyniad i'r cyfyngiadau symud a ddechreuodd ddiwedd mis Rhagfyr, bu'n rhaid i ni ailystyried ein rhaglen waith, a gohirio'r gwaith hwn.

**39.** Felly, rydym o'r farn y byddai'n werthfawr iawn edrych ar y mater hwn yn fanylach ar ddechrau'r Senedd nesaf.

### Byrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus

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**40.** Gwnaethom gymryd ystod o dystiolaeth a oedd yn edrych ar strwythur, llywodraethu, adnoddau, ac arfer gorau Byrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus yn 2018. Ni wnaethom gyhoeddi adroddiad, wrth iddi ddod yn amlwg ei bod yn anodd dod i gasgliadau am eu heffeithiolrwydd bryd hynny. Gwnaethom ymrwymo i ailedrych ar hyn tuag at ddiwedd tymor y Senedd, unwaith y gellid gwneud asesiad arall o effeithiolrwydd y cynlluniau llesiant, a sut yr oeddent yn gweithio.

**41.** Yn anffodus, oherwydd effaith y pandemig, nid oeddem yn gallu ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn yn ôl y bwriad. Fodd bynnag, rydym wedi trafod gwaith Byrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus yn fras mewn ystod o waith polisi arall, gan gynnwys edrych ar effaith COVID-19 ar y sector gwirfoddol, a gwaith craffu cyffredinol ar COVID-19. Rydym hefyd yn nodi gwaith y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus ar ddiwedd y Senedd hon sy'n edrych ar y rhwystrau i weithredu Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 yn llwyddiannus.<sup>12</sup> Un o'r materion a amlygwyd yn ystod ein sesiynau tystiolaeth oedd y dirwedd gymhleth y mae Byrddau Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus yn gweithio oddi mewn iddi. Maent yn eistedd ochr yn ochr â llu o bartneriaethau statudol ac amlasiantaethol, a ffurfiwyd ar sail leol, isranbarthol a rhanbarthol. Credwn fod hwn yn fater a fyddai'n haeddu ystyriaeth bellach yn y Senedd nesaf.

### Tlodi yng Nghymru: Gwneud i'r economi weithio i'r rheiny sydd ag incwm isel

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**42.** Roedd hwn yn ddarn eang o waith a gyhoeddwyd gennym ym mis Mai 2018, a oedd yn ymdrin â meysydd fel dull strategol Llywodraeth Cymru o ran datblygu

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<sup>12</sup>Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus, Cyflawni ar gyfer Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol: Y stori hyd yma, Mawrth 2021

economaidd; cyflogadwyedd; caffael; tâl; ansawdd gwaith a budd-daliadau.<sup>13</sup> O ganlyniad i'r adroddiad hwn, gwnaethom waith manwl pellach yn edrych ar ddymunoldeb datganoli budd-daliadau lles.<sup>14</sup> Fodd bynnag, nid oeddem yn gallu ailedrych ar weddill y gwaith oherwydd y pandemig. Fel gyda'r ymchwiliad i feichiogrwydd, mamolaeth a gwaith, roedd nifer o ffrydiau gwaith parhaus yn digwydd o fewn Llywodraeth Cymru ar adeg yr ymateb. Roedd y rhain yn cynnwys yr Adolygiad Caffael, datblygu'r dull o ymdrin ag Economi Sylfaenol; a'r Comisiwn Gwaith Teg, y bydd pob un ohonynt wedi cael effaith ar fynd i'r afael â'r materion y gwnaethom dynnu sylw atynt yn yr adroddiad. Credwn fod hwn yn faes gwaith pwysig i bwyllgor yn y dyfodol.

### Diogelwch adeiladau mewn adeiladau preswyl uchel iawn

**43.** Rydym wedi bod yn ystyried y mater pwysig hwn ers y digwyddiadau trychinebus yn Grenfell yn 2017. Rydym wedi edrych ar y mater mewn perthynas â thai yn y sector cymdeithasol a phreifat, ac arweiniodd hyn at ein hymateb diweddar i'r ymgynghoriad i Bapur Gwyn Llywodraeth Cymru ar ddiogelwch adeiladau. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi gwneud nifer o ymrwymadau y tu allan i'r Papur Gwyn, gan gynnwys sefydlu cronfa adfer adeiladau a fydd yn mynd "ymhellach na'r hyn a gynigir yn Lloegr".<sup>15</sup>

**44.** Disgwylir y bydd deddfwriaeth yn cael ei chyflwyno yn y Senedd nesaf i fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r materion hyn. Credwn ei bod yn hanfodol bod y pwyllgor perthnasol yn parhau i fonitro'r materion hyn yn ofalus, yn enwedig yr heriau sy'n wynebu'r rhai sy'n byw ac yn berchen ar fflatiau o fewn y stoc bresennol o adeiladau preswyl uchel iawn ledled Cymru.

### Gwaith arall

**45.** Mae dau ymchwiliad yr oeddem wedi nodi yr hoffem eu cynnal yn y Senedd hon, ond nid ydym wedi gallu gwneud hynny. Credwn fod y ddau o'r rhain yn bwysig iawn, ac y dylai pwyllgor olynol eu hystyried yn fanylach.

<sup>13</sup> Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau. Gwneud i'r economi weithio i'r rheini sydd ag incwm isel. Mai 2019

<sup>14</sup> Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau: opsiynau i'w cyflawni'n well. Hydref 2019

<sup>15</sup> Llythyr gan y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol ynghylch yr ymchwiliad i ddiogelwch tân mewn adeiladau uchel iawn yng Nghymru. 16 Mawrth 2021

## Cydlyniant ac integreiddio cymunedol

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**46.** Yn ystod tymor y Senedd ac yn enwedig cyn i'r pandemig byd-eang daro, roeddem yn pryderu am rai o'r adroddiadau a oedd yn awgrymu bod y digwyddiadau gwleidyddol ehangach wedi effeithio ar gydlyniant cymunedol, megis y refferendwm ar aelodaeth o'r UE. Roedd yn fater y gwnaethom sôn amdano fel rhan o'n gwaith yn edrych ar ffoaduriaid a cheiswyr lloches yng Nghymru, a theimlwyd bod hynny'n haeddu ymchwiliad pellach. Trwy gydol y Senedd hon rydym wedi galw ar Lywodraeth Cymru i ddiweddarau ei chynllun cyflawni cydlyniant cymunedol, yr oedd wedi ymrwymo i'w wneud ddwywaith o'r blaen, yn 2017 a 2018. Er ein bod yn croesawu gwaith parhaus i ddiweddarau'r Cynllun Gweithredu Cydraddoldeb Hiliol, rydym yn dal i gredu y dylai'r maes ehangach o gydlyniant ac integreiddio cymunedol fod yn fater o flaenoriaeth uchel i'r Senedd nesaf.

**47.** Yn anffodus, wrth i'r pandemig daro, bu'n rhaid i ni ail-lunio ein rhaglen waith, ac nid oeddem yn gallu ymgymryd â'r gwaith hwn.

### Ail gartrefi

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**48.** Yn 2018, gwnaethom nodi dau ymchwiliad yn ymwneud â thai i'w cynnal; sef eiddo gwag, ac ail gartrefi. Gwnaethom gwblhau'r gwaith ar eiddo gwag, ond roedd ein hymrwymiaadau deddfwriaethol yn golygu nad oeddem yn gallu edrych ar fater ail gartrefi.

**49.** Er bod "ardaloedd arbennig" penodol y mae'r mater hwn yn effeithio arnynt yn fwy difrifol, rydym yn ymwybodol bod hyn yn effeithio ar y stoc dai sydd ar gael mewn sawl ardal, a'i fod yn effeithio'n ehangach ar gymunedau ac unigolion. Felly, rydym o'r farn y byddai'n werthfawr gwneud gwaith pellach mewn perthynas â hyn yn y Senedd nesaf.

## Meysydd ychwanegol sydd o ddiddordeb

### Craffu ar ôl deddfu

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**50.** Mae amrywiaeth o faterion eraill sy'n bwysig yn ein barn ni, ac efallai y bydd pwyllgorau'r dyfodol yn dymuno eu hystyried. Yn benodol, teimlwn fod manteision gwirioneddol i bwyllgorau yn y Chweched Senedd wneud mwy o waith craffu ar ôl deddfu. Dyma oedd ein dull gweithredu yn ein hymchwiliad sylweddol cyntaf – ar Ddeddf Trais yn Erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a

Thrais Rhywiol (Cymru) 2015<sup>16</sup>, gwaith y gwnaethom barhau i'w ddilyn drwy gydol tymor y Senedd.

**51.** Mae craffu ar ôl deddfu yn faes craffu pwysig, os weithiau, sy'n cael ei anwybyddu. Mae nifer o feysydd gwaith a fyddai o fudd iddo yn ein barn ni. Yn benodol, cafwyd nifer o ddarnau arwyddocaol o ddeddfwriaeth tai:

- Deddf Tai (Cymru) 2014 - yn enwedig y cynllun cofrestru a thrwyddedu landlordiaid ac asiantau;
- Effaith Deddf Diddymu'r Hawl i Brynu a Hawliau Cysylltiedig (Cymru) 2018;
- Deddf Llywodraeth Leol ac Etholiadau (Cymru) 2021 - yn enwedig edrych ar Ran 2 (cyfranogiad y cyhoedd mewn democratiaeth leol); 4 (gweithredwyr, aelodau a swyddogion awdurdodau lleol); 5 (cydbwyllgorau corfforedig) a Rhan 6 (perfformiad a llywodraethu).

**52.** Efallai y bydd pwyllgor yn y dyfodol hefyd am adolygu gweithredu Deddf Rhentu Cartrefi (Cymru) 2016. Nid yw'r ddeddfwriaeth hon wedi ei chychwyn eto, er iddi gael ei phasio bum mlynedd yn ôl. Yn ystod y Senedd hon, rydym wedi ystyried dwy Ddeddf arall a ddiwygiodd Ddeddf 2016. Dylai'r ystyriaeth o ran gweithredu deddfwriaeth 2016 hefyd ystyried y newidiadau a gyflwynir gan y ddwy Ddeddf hyn, mewn perthynas â gwahardd ffioedd asiantau gosod; a chyflwyno cyfnodau rhybudd dim bai hirach.

### Craffu ar bolisi

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**53.** Mae ystod o faterion eraill rydym yn credu y byddai'n fuddiol cynnal gwaith craffu pellach arnynt yn y Chweched Senedd.

- Modelau amgen o ddarparu gwasanaethau mewn llywodraeth leol;
- Agenda trawsnewid mewn llywodraeth leol - digidol;
- Adfer ar ôl y pandemig - gwasanaethau llywodraeth leol;
- Cynnydd o ran gweithredu argymhellion yr adolygiad o gydraddoldeb rhywiol;

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<sup>16</sup> Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau, A yw Deddf Trais yn erbyn Menywod, Cam-drin Domestig a Thrais Rhywiol (Cymru) 2015 yn gweithio? Rhagfyr 2016

- Anghydraddoldebau economaidd rhanbarthol a chymunedau sydd 'wedi cael eu gadael ar ôl'. Dylai hyn gwmpasu'r cymunedau diwydiannol a'r heriau penodol a wynebir o ran symudedd cymdeithasol mewn cymunedau sydd wedi profi gostyngiad tymor hir mewn cyfleoedd addysg a chyflogaeth;
- Tlodi - cyflwyno rhaglenni gwrth-dlodi yn lleol yng Nghymru wedi'r rhaglen Cymunedau yn Gyntaf;
- Lleihau aflonyddu rhywiol/gwella diogelwch menywod; ac
- Argaeledd mannau chwarae at bob tywydd ar gyfer plant a phobl ifanc.

Jenny Rathbone AS  
Cadeirydd  
Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder  
Cymdeithasol  
Y Senedd  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1SN

24 Cathedral Road / 24 Heol y Gadeirlan  
Cardiff / Caerdydd  
CF11 9LJ  
Tel / Ffôn: 029 2032 0500  
Fax / Ffacs: 029 2032 0600  
Textphone / Ffôn testun: 029 2032 0660  
[info@audit.wales](mailto:info@audit.wales) / [post@archwilio.cymru](mailto:post@archwilio.cymru)  
[www.audit.wales](http://www.audit.wales) / [www.archwilio.cymru](http://www.archwilio.cymru)

**Cyfeirnod:** AC/274/caf

**Dyddiad cyhoeddi:** 9 Gorffennaf 2021

Annwyl Jenny

## Gwaith Archwilio Cymru

Llongyfarchiadau ar eich penodiad fel Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol. Dymunaf bob llwyddiant i chi yn eich swydd newydd ac ar ddechrau cyfnod o bum mlynedd heriol i wasanaethau cyhoeddus yng Nghymru.

Mae fy nghylch gwaith fel Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru yn golygu mai fi yw archwilydd allanol statudol y rhan fwyaf o'r sector cyhoeddus yng Nghymru ac yn gyfrifol am archwilio'r rhan fwyaf o'r arian cyhoeddus sy'n cael ei wario yng Nghymru. Ym mis Medi, rwy'n bwriadu cyhoeddi cyfres o allbynnau 'Darlun o Wasanaethau Cyhoeddus'. Bydd y rhain yn cynnwys ein barn ar yr heriau ariannol ac ehangach allweddol sy'n wynebu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus dros y blynyddoedd nesaf a byddant yn nodi rhai o'r meysydd darparu gwasanaethau cyhoeddus lle byddaf yn disgwyl i wasanaethau cyhoeddus ddangos cynnydd. Gobeithio y bydd allbynnau'r gwaith hwn o ddi-ddordeb i holl Aelodau'r Senedd ac y byddant yn darparu pwynt cyfeirio defnyddiol ar gyfer eu gwaith yn y dyfodol.

Rwy'n disgwyl y bydd gwaith Archwilio Cymru yn parhau i fod yn rhan allweddol wrth gefnogi gwaith y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus a Gweinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus (PCCGG) newydd, gyda PCCGG yn parhau i fod yn brif gynulleidfa i ni. Fodd bynnag, dwi hefyd yn awyddus i Archwilio Cymru ddefnyddio ei bersbectif a'i

arbenigedd unigryw i gefnogi gwaith pwyllgorau eraill y Senedd lle mae gennym wybodaeth archwilio berthnasol i'w chyflwyno. Felly, byddem yn croesawu'r cyfle i gael ein cynnwys mewn unrhyw ymgynghoriadau ehangach y mae eich Pwyllgor yn eu cynnal. Dwi hefyd yn rhagweld y bydd achlysuron o hyd lle y gallai pwyllgorau ar wahân i PCCGG arwain y gwaith o graffu ar faterion a godir yn fy adroddiadau, lle mae'r rhain yn berthnasol ac yn amserol yng nghyd-destun eu gwaith craffu eu hunain.

Rydym newydd gyhoeddi ein Hadroddiad Blynyddol a Chyfrifon diweddaraf, sy'n adrodd hanes ein gwaith yn ystod 2020-21 ac yn cynnwys dolenni i rhai o'n prif allbynnau. Mae ein Hadroddiad Blynyddol hefyd yn crynhoi'r gwaith sydd wrthi'n cael eu cynnal neu rydym yn bwriadu eu cychwyn yn hwyrach yn y flwyddyn a byddwn yn rhannu rhagor o fanylion gyda thimau clericio'r pwyllgorau dros yr haf. Er enghraifft, rydym ar hyn o bryd yng nghamau cynnar y gwaith sy'n edrych ar bwnc asesu'r effaith ar gydraddoldeb ac astudiaeth sy'n edrych ar sut mae awdurdodau lleol yn mynd i'r afael â thlodi. Mae fy nyletswyddau archwilio ac adrodd o dan Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 hefyd yn berthnasol.

Os hoffech chi neu aelodau eich Pwyllgor gael gwybod mwy am waith Archwilio Cymru, mae croeso i chi gysylltu. Os oes gan Aelodau bryderon penodol am y defnydd o arian cyhoeddus, rydym bob tro'n agored i dderbyn gohebiaeth. Gall Aelodau naill ai gysylltu â mi'n uniongyrchol neu gallant wneud hynny drwy ein cyfeiriad e-bost Archwilio Cymru [post@archwilio.cymru](mailto:post@archwilio.cymru). Mae rhagor o fanylion am sut rydym yn ymdrin â gohebiaeth o'r fath ar gael ar ein gwefan: [Codi pryderon | Archwilio Cymru](#).

Edrychaf ymlaen yn fawr at weithio gyda chi dros y pum mlynedd nesaf.

Dymuniadau gorau



**ADRIAN CROMPTON**  
**Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru**

Jenny Rathbone AS

Cadeirydd

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

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14 Gorffennaf 2021

Annwyl Gadeirydd

### **Amserlenni Pwyllgorau**

Ysgrifennaf i roi gwybod ichi am Amserlenni Pwyllgorau fel y cytunwyd arnynt gan y Pwyllgor Busnes yn ei gyfarfod ar 13 Gorffennaf.

Mae'r Pwyllgor Busnes wedi cytuno ar amserlen sy'n darparu cyfarfodydd bob pythefnos i bwyllgorau, ac eithrio'r Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad, sy'n cyfarfod bob wythnos oherwydd yr angen i ystyried Offerynnau Statudol i derfynau amser caeth.

Neges allweddol gan Fforwm Cadeiryddion y Pumed Senedd oedd sicrhau bod hyblygrwydd yn y trefniadau ar gyfer pwyllgorau fel y gellir rheoli cynnydd mewn llwyth gwaith, neu dasgau newydd. Mae'r Pwyllgor Busnes wedi ceisio cyflwyno'r hyblygrwydd hwn drwy amrywio'r amser cyfarfod a neilltuir i wahanol bwyllgorau. Mae hyn yn adlewyrchu'r math o waith y gallai fod angen i wahanol bwyllgorau ei wneud ac mae'n adlewyrchu sut mae arferion gwaith wedi esblygu yn ystod y blynyddoedd diwethaf.

I'r perwyl hwn, mae'r amserlen bob pythefnos ac mae nifer o slotiau cyfarfod ychwanegol ar gael, i ddarparu ar gyfer cynnydd yng ngwaith pwyllgorau penodol e.e. y Pwyllgor Cyllid wrth ystyried cyllideb ddrafft, neu bwyllgor sydd â chyfrifoldebau craffu deddfwriaethol Cyfnod 1. Trwy dan-ymrwymo'r capasiti amserlennu, mae mwy o gyfleoedd i bwyllgorau weithio gyda'i gilydd gan fod llai o bosibilrwydd o wrthdaro aelodaeth ym mhob slot cyfarfod.





I gydnabod cyfrifoldebau craffu deddfwriaethol hysbys a disgwylidig rhai pwyllgorau, darperir slot cyfarfod dwbl i'r pwyllgorau a ganlyn h.y. slot bore a phrynhawn ar ddydd lau:

- Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg
- Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith
- Yr Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig; a
- Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol

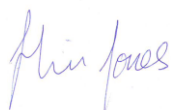
Darperir slot cyfarfod sengl i'r pwyllgorau sy'n weddill h.y. un slot cyfarfod bore neu brynhawn bob pythefnos. Y pwyllgorau hyn yw:

- Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol
- Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol
- Cyllid;
- Llywodraeth Leol a Thai
- Deisebau;
- Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus a Gweinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus; a
- Safonau Ymddygiad

Er mwyn darparu rhywfaint o gapasiti ychwanegol ar gyfer gwaith craffu ar Ffiliau, mae dyddiau Gwener hefyd ar gael ar gyfer gwaith craffu Cyfnod 2 pwyllgorau ar Ffiliau h.y. i ddarparu cyfarfod ychwanegol (ac o bosibl cyfarfod hwy) i bwyllgorau yn ystod y cyfnod hwn o'r broses ddeddfwriaethol. Bydd y Pwyllgor Busnes yn penderfynu neilltuo unrhyw slotiau ychwanegol yn dilyn cais gan bwyllgor.

Mae'r Pwyllgor Busnes eisoes wedi nodi ei fwriad i adolygu amserlennu, fel y gall ymateb i anghenion pwyllgorau wrth i'r tasgau sy'n eu hwynebu newid. Mae hyblygrwydd ac ymatebolrwydd wrth wraidd ei benderfyniadau ynghylch amserlennu pwyllgorau, ac mae'r Pwyllgor Busnes yn bwriadu adolygu strwythur ac amserlen y pwyllgorau tua Pasg 2022.

Yn gywir



**Elin Jones AS**

Y Llywydd a Chadeirydd y Pwyllgor Busnes



Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc, ac Addysg  
Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol  
Cadeirydd, Pwyllgor yr Economi, Masnach a Materion  
Gwledig  
Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr  
Amgylchedd a Seilwaith  
Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder  
Cymdeithasol  
Cadeirydd, Y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y  
Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol

16 Gorffennaf 2021

Annwyl Gadeiryddion pwyllgor

### Gwaith craffu ariannol

Yn ein cyfarfod ar 8 Gorffennaf 2021, trafododd y Pwyllgor Cyllid (y Pwyllgor) y rhaglen ymgysylltu ar gyfer Cyllideb Ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru sydd ar ddod a'n dull o graffu. Rwy'n ysgrifennu at holl Gadeiryddion y pwyllgorau pwnc i rannu ein syniadau.

### Amserlen

Yn unol â'r Rheolau Sefydlog, mae'r Trefnydd wedi ysgrifennu at y Pwyllgor Busnes yn nodi y bydd y Gyllideb Ddrafft yn cael ei chyhoeddi ar 20 Rhagfyr 2021 ac y bydd cynnig y Gyllideb flynyddol yn cael ei drafod yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar 8 Chwefror 2022.

Ymgynghorodd y Pwyllgor Busnes â ni ar yr amserlen arfaethedig. Fel y nodwyd yn llythyr y Trefnydd, mae Canghellor y Trysorlys wedi nodi ei fwriad i gynnal adolygiad cynhwysfawr aml-flwydd o wariant, sy'n golygu na fydd Llywodraeth Cymru yn gwybod ei setliad cyllidebol nes i'r adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant ddod i ben yn yr hydref.



**Senedd Cymru**  
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

 [SeneddCyllid@senedd.cymru](mailto:SeneddCyllid@senedd.cymru)

 0300 200 6565

**Welsh Parliament**  
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

 [SeneddFinance@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddFinance@senedd.wales)

 0300 200 6565

Rwyf wedi ysgrifennu at y Pwyllgor Busnes i fynegi ein siom y bydd y Gyllideb Ddrafft yn cael ei chyhoeddi yn ystod toriad y Nadolig. Er ein bod yn deall bod yr amserlen arfaethedig oherwydd amseriad adolygiad cynhwysfawr o wariant Llywodraeth y DU, hon fydd y drydedd flwyddyn yn olynol i'r amserlen arfaethedig leihau'r amser sydd ar gael i'r Senedd wneud gwaith craffu.

### Y prif feysydd craffu ar y gyllideb

Mae'r Pwyllgor wedi cytuno i barhau â'r dull a ddefnyddiwyd yn Seneddau'r gorffennol, sy'n canolbwyntio ar bedair egwyddor gwaith craffu ariannol, sef: fforddiadwyedd, blaenoriaethu, gwerth am arian a phroses. Yr egwyddorion yw:

- **Fforddiadwyedd** - edrych ar y darlun mawr o ran cyfanswm y refeniw a gwariant, ac a oes cydbwysedd priodol rhyngddynt;
- **Blaenoriaethu** - a yw'r dyraniadau wedi'u rhannu rhwng sectorau/rhaglenni gwahanol mewn ffordd gydlynol y gellir ei chyfiawnhau;
- **Gwerth am arian** - yn y bôn, a yw cyrff cyhoeddus yn gwario eu dyraniadau'n dda - darbodusrwydd, effeithlonrwydd ac effeithiolrwydd (h.y. canlyniadau);
- **Prosesau'r gyllideb** - a ydynt yn effeithiol ac yn hygyrch ac a oes integreiddio rhwng cynlluniau corfforaethol a chynlluniau gwasanaeth, a rheolaeth perfformiad a rheolaeth ariannol.

Byddai'r Pwyllgor yn ddiolchgar pe bai eich gwaith craffu ar y gyllideb yn dilyn yr egwyddorion hyn.

### Y dull o ran ymgysylltu

Bydd y Pwyllgor yn trafod ei ddull o ran ymgysylltu â'r Gyllideb Ddrafft ddechrau tymor yr hydref. Hoffem i'r ymgysylltiad hwn ategu a llywio gwaith y pwyllgorau polisi. Byddwn yn croesawu trafod hyn yn unigol â'r Cadeiryddion, neu yn Fforwm y Cadeiryddion.

Yn dilyn yr arfer mewn Seneddau blaenorol, mae'r Pwyllgor yn fodlon cynnal ymgynghoriad ar ran yr holl bwyllgorau. O gofio'r amserlen arfaethedig, rydym o'r farn mai cyhoeddi ein hymgyngghoriad ddechrau tymor yr hydref fyddai fwyaf addas.

Bydd Clerc y Pwyllgor Cyllid yn hysbysu eich clercod pwyllgor pan fydd yr ymgynghoriad wedi'i gyhoeddi a byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi eich help i hyrwyddo'r ymgynghoriad drwy eich adnoddau cyfathrebu eich hunan i annog cynulleidfa ehangach ac ymgysylltu â hi. Newidiodd y darpariaethau o ran adrodd gan bwyllgorau polisi yn 2017, ac rydych bellach yn gallu adrodd yn eich rhinwedd eich hunan (os dymunwch), a gall eich adroddiadau gael eu defnyddio fel dogfen ategol i'r ddadl ar y Gyllideb Ddrafft.

### Dadl blaenoriaethau dan arweiniad y Pwyllgor Cyllid



Argymhellodd Pwyllgor Cyllid y Bumed Senedd y dylai Pwyllgor Cyllid yn y dyfodol gynnal dadl flynyddol ar flaenoriaethau gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru er mwyn rhoi cyfle i'r Aelodau drafod y blaenoriaethau gwariant, a dylanwadu arnynt o bosibl, cyn i'r Gyllideb Ddrafft gael ei chyhoeddi.

Eleni, trefnodd Llywodraeth Cymru ei dadl ei hun ynghylch *Paratoi'r Gyllideb: Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer 2022-23*, a gynhaliwyd ddydd Mawrth 13 Gorffennaf. Ysgrifennodd y Pwyllgor at y Gweinidog Cyllid a'r Pwyllgor Busnes i geisio cytundeb y bydd hon, yn y dyfodol, yn ddadl dan arweiniad y Pwyllgor Cyllid a gynhelir bob blwyddyn cyn toriad yr haf, y mae'r Gweinidog a'r Pwyllgor Busnes wedi cytuno iddi. Yn y blynyddoedd i ddod, rydym yn gobeithio cynnal ymarfer ymgysylltu â'r cyhoedd i lywio'r ddadl hon, a byddwn yn croesawu eich syniadau ynghylch sut y gall y pwyllgorau sy'n craffu ar y Gyllideb Ddrafft weithio gyda'i gilydd i gasglu barn y cyhoedd am yr hyn y mae'n teimlo y dylai blaenoriaethau gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru fod.

### **Gwaith craffu ariannol ar ddeddfwriaeth**

Swyddogaeth graidd y Pwyllgor yw gwneud gwaith craffu ariannol ar Lywodraeth Cymru a chyrrff cyhoeddus cysylltiedig. Fodd bynnag, dylid cynnwys gwaith craffu ariannol yn y gwaith craffu y mae'r holl bwyllgorau'n ei wneud. Erbyn hyn, mae'r amser sydd ar gael i'r Pwyllgor yn gyfyngedig ac mae ganddo lawer o rwymedigaethau statudol i'w cyflawni. Felly, rydym wedi cytuno i drafod pob Bil a gyflwynir i'r Senedd yn gychwynnol er mwyn penderfynu a fyddwn yn craffu ar oblygiadau ariannol Bil, gan ddibynnu ar lefelau'r costau a'r tryloywder a gynhwysir yn yr Asesiad Effaith Rheoleiddiol. Os byddwn yn penderfynu peidio â gwneud gwaith craffu ariannol ar Fil penodol, byddwn yn ysgrifennu at y pwyllgor craffu cyfnod un perthnasol i nodi pwyntiau o ddiddordeb y gall fod angen i'r Pwyllgor eu trafod wrth adrodd ar egwyddorion cyffredinol y Bil.

Gan mai dyma ddechrau Senedd newydd, gobeithio y gallwn achub ar y cyfle i archwilio ffyrdd o weithio ar y cyd â phwyllgorau eraill i sicrhau'r gwaith craffu ariannol mwyaf effeithiol ar Lywodraeth Cymru. Hoffwn awgrymu ein bod yn trafod hyn yn fanylach yng nghyfarfod Fforwm y Cadeiryddion.

Os oes gennych gwestiynau am unrhyw agwedd ar broses y Gyllideb Ddrafft, mae croeso i chi gysylltu â mi neu Bethan Davies, Clerc y Pwyllgor Cyllid, drwy ffonio 0300 200 6372 neu anfon e-bost i [seneddcyllid@senedd.cymru](mailto:seneddcyllid@senedd.cymru).

Yn gywir





Peredur Owen Griffiths AS  
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



# Eitem 4.5



VULNERABLE  
CUSTOMER EVENT

DIGWYDDIAD  
CWSMERIAID BREGUS

## Adroddiad ar y Gweithdy

Achlysur Rhithiol 25 Mawrth, 2021



## Cyflwyniad

Lansiwyd ein strategaeth i gynorthwyo cwsmeriaid dan amodau bregus ym mis Tachwedd 2018. Mae'r strategaeth, a gyhoeddwyd o dan y teitl 'Cynorthwyo ein Cwsmeriaid - Gweithio wrth galon ein cymuned', yn disgrifio sut rydyn ni'n bwriadu gwella ein gwasanaethau ar gyfer y cwsmeriaid sydd â'r angen mwyaf am ein cymorth. Yn benodol, roedd yn canolbwyntio ar 5 maes blaenoriaeth, sef:

- **Data** - gweithio gyda chwmnïau cyfleustod eraill, y llywodraeth ac asiantaethau'r llywodraeth i fod yn rhagweithiol wrth glustnodi'r cwsmeriaid sy'n debygol o fod angen ein cymorth.
- **Gwasanaethau Blaenoriaeth** – gwella'r cymorth rydym yn ei ddarparu ar gyfer cwsmeriaid sydd mewn amgylchiadau bregus yn seiliedig ar beth y mae'r cwsmeriaid hynny'n dweud wrthym fyddai'n eu cynorthwyo nhw, a chynyddu'r nifer sydd wedi cofrestru ar gyfer ein gwasanaethau blaenoriaeth.
- **Bregustra Ariannol** – darparu cynlluniau i glustnodi aelwydydd incwm isel a'u cynorthwyo, cynnig cyngor iddynt am ffyrdd o leihau eu costau trwy ddulliau eraill, a deall pa gymorth y gallai fod ganddynt yr hawl i'w gael.
- **Partneriaethau** – adeiladu ar ein rhwydwaith o bartneriaid, gan sicrhau ein bod ni'n gweithio gyda chynrychiolwyr cwsmeriaid ag anghenion penodol a'n bod yn codi ymwybyddiaeth am y gwasanaethau a ddarparwn.
- **Hyfforddiant** – sicrhau bod ein pobl yn gallu adnabod a deall y ffactorau sy'n gwneud cwsmeriaid yn fregus, a'u hymbweru i wneud y penderfyniadau angenrheidiol er mwyn sicrhau bod pob cwsmer bregus yn cael y cymorth sydd ei angen arnynt.

Nôl yn 2018, ychydig iawn ohonom fyddai wedi gallu dychmygu'r newidiadau rydyn ni wedi eu gweld yn ein byd dros flwyddyn neu fwy ddiwethaf, a bydd ein cymunedau, ein ffrindiau a'n teuluoedd yn dal i deimlo effeithiau Covid-19 am genedlaethau i ddod. Mae hi'n sicr wedi dangos pwysigrwydd ein gwaith ni, a gwaith sawl sefydliad arall, wrth gynorthwyo'r bobl hynny sy'n ei chael hi'n anodd cyrchu gwasanaethau.

Roeddwn i'n falch iawn felly o gynnal ein cynhadledd rithiol gyntaf ar 25 Mawrth 2021, a dynnodd dros 80 o gynrychiolwyr o'n mudiadau partner a'n rhanddeiliaid ynghyd i rannu'r cynnydd a wnaed dros y blynyddoedd diwethaf, a thrafod beth arall y gallwn ei wneud gyda'n gilydd i helpu cwsmeriaid sydd mewn amgylchiadau bregus.

Roeddem ni'n ddigon ffodus i glywed anerchiadau blaenllaw gan ein partneriaid yn Llywodraeth Cymru, Cartrefi Conwy a Wales & West Utilities, oedd yn edrych ar rannu data am wasanaethau blaenoriaeth, manteision partneriaethau cymunedol a'r ffordd orau o ddefnyddio'r wybodaeth o fewn ein busnesau i wella ein gwasanaethau.

Rydyn ni wedi crynhoi'r prif bwyntiau trafod yn yr adroddiad hwn, ynghyd â'n cynlluniau i fwrw ymlaen â nhw.

Hoffwn fanteisio ar y cyfle hwn i ddiolch i bawb am ddod ac am eu cefnogaeth barhaus. Gallwn gyflawni gymaint wrth gronni ein syniadau, ein pobl a'n hadnoddau, a thrwy hynny, gallwn wneud gwahaniaeth go iawn i'r cwsmeriaid hynny sydd angen ein cymorth y mwyaf.

**Samantha James**

**Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cwsmeriaid Domestig  
Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water**





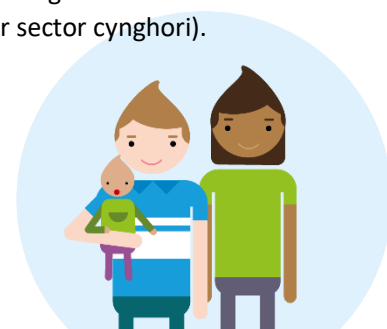
## Crynodeb o'r Adborth

### Rhannu data

- Mae gan lawer o'r cynrychiolwyr ddiddordeb clywed rhagor am y Prosiect JIGSO, a sut y gallant gyfrannu ato a'i gyrchu. Roedd pawb yn gweld gwerth a budd rhannu gwybodaeth am wasanaethau blaenoriaeth
- Mae rhai awdurdodau lleol eisoes yn defnyddio system i gasglu gwybodaeth werthfawr am gwsmeriaid yn gysylltiedig â gofal cymdeithasol, ac roedd y rhain wedi tybio bod y wybodaeth yna eisoes yn cael ei rhannu.
- Mae llawer o wasanaethau cymorth lleol yn cael trafferth clustnodi pa gwsmeriaid fyddai'n elwa ar eu gwasanaethau, a byddai trysorfa/ffynhonnell ganolog o wybodaeth yn eu cynorthwyo i estyn allan at y bobl hynny sydd angen cymorth.
- Cwestiynodd rhai o'r cynrychiolwyr a oedd yna safbwynt cyffredin am beth yn union yw bod yn fregus, a hefyd a yw pobl am gael eu hystyried yn fregus.
- Mae yna 'ofn' peidio â chydymffurfio â'r Rheoliad Cyffredinol ar Ddiogelu Data (GDPR) ac mae angen mynd i'r afael â hyn.
- Awgrymiadau ar gyfer Prosiect JIGSO
  - Cwsmeriaid i lanlwytho manylion unrhyw newid mewn amgylchiadau eu hunain (yn arbennig lle mae'r bregustra'n rhywbeth dros dro)
  - Y gallu i hidlo gwybodaeth yn ôl lleoliad, natur y bregustra, a oes mesurydd dŵr ar y cyflenwad.
  - Mae hwylustod yn hanfodol.

### Gweithio mewn partneriaeth

- Mae'r cyfnodau clo wedi ein dysgu ni bod cysylltiadau rhithiol â chwsmeriaid (neu gleientiaid) yn cynnig gwasanaeth gwell mewn rhai achosion. Mae mwy o lawer o bobl yn defnyddio'r dechnoleg ac wedi dod i arfer â hi. Fodd bynnag, mae angen i ni gydnabod na fydd yn hyn gweithio i bawb, ac mewn rhai achosion rhaid gweithio gyda gofalwyr/perthnasau.
- Mae rhai cwmnïau cyfleustod yn gweithio gydag aelodau ifanc yn eu cymunedau i ddatblygu apiau i gofrestru pobl i dderbyn cymorth.
- Gallai Cynghorau Gwirfoddol Sirol (CGS) a rhwydweithiau ymgynghorol rhanbarthol gynnig cyfle i ddatblygu cysyniad yr 'hyb'. Mae nifer o rwydweithiau partneriaeth wedi esblygu dros y cyfnod clo, ymhlith yr esiamplau a enwyd roedd cyfeiriadur cymunedol Cyngor Sir Dinbych a'r bartneriaeth rhwng y Cyfeiriadur Awtistiaeth, yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau ac Undeb Rygbi Cymru.
- Mae atgyfeiriadau'n bwysig iawn ond mae yna ambell i faes y mae angen mynd i'r afael â nhw er mwyn iddynt weithio:
  - Rhaid i'r broses atgyfeirio fod yn un 2 ffordd
  - Mae angen cysylltiadau rheolaidd rhwng y partneriaid atgyfeirio
  - Er bod cysylltiadau rhithiol wedi gweithio'n dda, mewn ambell i achos mae'n anodd mynd i'r afael ag anghenion go iawn cwsmeriaid oni bai eich bod chi'n cyfarfod wyneb yn wyneb.
- Mae sawl sefydliad yn teimlo bod y GDPR yn rhwystr
- Gellir ystyried bod llwyddiant partneriaeth mewn un maes yn dod ar draul maes arall, ac mae angen dull mwy unfurf o weithredu. Un ffordd o fynd i'r afael â hyn yw diffinio'r 10 cynllun cymorth uchaf ar draws amryw o sefydliadau a chyfathrebu'n gyson â'r holl dimau gwasanaethau cwsmeriaid (mae rhywbeth tebyg yn gweithredu rhwng yr awdurdodau lleol a'r sector cyngori).



## Beth fydd y camau nesaf...

- Parhau i weithio gyda Llywodraeth Cymru a thîm Prosiect JIGSO i ddatblygu platfform rhannu data, gan gynnwys adolygu'r adborth o'r gynhadledd.
- Ymchwilio i'r opsiynau ar gyfer hyb cynghori, gan edrych ar esiamplau o gwmnïau dŵr eraill a sectorau eraill, a datblygu cynnig i gyflawni treial cyn diwedd Mawrth 2022.
- Cwblhau ein 2 brosiect cymuned gwydn o ran dŵr yn y Rhyl a Rhymni-Bargoed, gan ymgorffori'r hyn a ddysgir i'n cynlluniau, a sicrhau bod perthnasau cymunedol yn pontio o'r prosiectau i'n gweithgareddau pob dydd.
- Archwilio gwasanaethau newydd i helpu cwsmeriaid incwm isel
  - Mwyafu incwm a chyfeirio pobl
  - Gwarantu'r biliau isaf
- Caiff y cynllun ar gyfer ein cynhadledd nesaf ei gyhoeddi erbyn Hydref 2021.



## Atodiad A: Agenda

- 09:30 **Croeso a chyflwyniad:** Peter Davies, Cadeirydd y Grŵp Herio ar ran Cwsmeriaid
- 09:40 **Trosolwg Dŵr Cymru:** Sam James, Rheolwr Gyfarwyddwr Gwasanaethau Cwsmeriaid Domestig Dŵr Cymru :
- 09:55 **Ffilm Dŵr Cymru:** Defnyddio data
- 10:00 **Siaradwr gwadd:** Tony Bracey, Pennaeth Rhaglenni, Llywodraeth Cymru
- 10:10 **Sesiwn Grŵp:** Cymhwyso cysyniad prosiect JIGSO er budd cwsmeriaid bregus
- 10:25 **Ffilm Dŵr Cymru:** Darparu cymorth
- 10:30 **Siaradwr Gwadd:** Mark Jones, Rheolwr Adfer Incwm, Cartrefi Conwy
- 10:40 **Sesiwn Grŵp:** Clustnodi ac estyn allan at gwsmeriaid bregus
- 10:55 **Egwyl**
- 11:10 **Siaradwr Gwadd:** Nigel Winnan, Pennaeth Cwsmeriaid a Rhwymedigaethau Cymdeithasol, Wales & West Utilities
- 11:25 **Holi'r Panel:** Dan gadeiryddiaeth Alun Shurmer
- 11:45 **Crynodeb:** Sam James
- 12:00 **Diwedd**

## Atodiad B: Rhestr o gynrychiolwyr

Alun Evans	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Catherine Reed-Hughes	Gofal a Thrwsio
Parry Declan	Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau
Ewelina Dobczynska	Shelter
Jane Healey	Gofalwyr Cymru
Jonathan Johnson	Y Cyngor Defnyddwyr Dŵr
Lia Moutselou	Y Cyngor Defnyddwyr Dŵr
Lynda Corre	
Neil Williams	Gofal a Thrwsio
Rhodri Williams	Y Cyngor Defnyddwyr Dŵr
Shian Thomas	The Wallich
Jo Kenrick	NED
Agnes Xavier-Philips	Glas Cymru
Karen Cross	Y Groes Goch
Alun Shurmer	Dŵr Cymru
Claire Price	MV Homes
Dawn Grant-Crichton	Gofal a Thrwsio
Ffion Davies	Cyn-filwyr Dall
Shackleton Janine	Y Cyngor Defnyddwyr Dŵr
Jones, Byron	Cyngor Caerffili
Lisa Mcculla	Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau
Mandy Price	Gofal a Thrwsio
Paul Elliott	Cymdeithas Tai Cymunedol Caerdydd
Richard Thomas	Gofal a Thrwsio
Solitaire Pritchard	Pobl
Gareth Jones	Glas Cymru
Wayne Rees	Glas Cymru
Siwan Williams	Llywodraeth Cymru
Amanda Derbyshire	Gofal a Thrwsio
Evans, Colette	United Utilities
Dylan Mclellan	Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni
Fforwm	PennySmart
Jo Woodward	Groundwork
Julie Pierce	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Louise Edwards	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Mari Arthur	CCG
Owen Paul	Tîm Cyflogwyr a Phartneriaeth y Ganolfan Byd Gwaith
Richard Weaver	Dinasyddion Cymru
Stacy L. Williams	Ynys Môn
Nina Jones	Glas Cymru
Sorahan Rachel	DWP
Jo Harry	Gofal a Thrwsio

Ian Krawczynski	Glas Cymru
Audrey McMullan	Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau Caergybi
David Pownall	Gwasanaethau Eiriolaeth
Elizabeth Willington	Tai Cymoedd i'r Arfordir
George Williams	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Jo Sutton	Cyngor Sir Dinbych
Kate White	TGP Cymru
Louise Lewis	Shelter
Grice, Mark	Severn Trent
Peter Hughes	Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni
Ruth Jenkins	Cymdeithas Tai Hafod
Sue Parry	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Jessica Simmons	Cyngor Conwy
Emyr Roberts	Glas Cymru
Ian Catterall	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Lovatt Beverley	Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau
Deborah Fellows	Cartrefi Dinas Casnewydd
Emma Griffiths	TGP Cymru
Himalee Rupesinghe	Y Cyfeiriadur Awtistiaeth
Joanna Seymour	Cymru Gynnes
Kathy Lye	Age Cymru
Lucy Beavan	Shelter
Richardson, Michele	Cymdeithas Alzheimer
Sandra Davies	Gofal a Thrwsio
Thomas Milne	Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni
Sophie Lewis	Yr Ymddiriedolaeth Arbed Ynni
Nick Rushbrooke	Glas Cymru
Stephanie Martin	Bristol Water
Lee G Jones	Cymdeithas Tai Merthyr Tudful
Nikki Jones	Cyngor Sir Dinbych
Williams Eleri	Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau
Cath Thomas	Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau
Debra Wakeham	Gofal a Thrwsio
Emma Simons	Cyn-filwyr Dall
Jackie Blackwell	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Jonathan Cosson	Cymru Gynnes
Kristy Grigg	Gofal a Thrwsio
Hamer Lyn	Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau
Jones Melanie	Yr Adran Gwaith a Phensiynau
Rebecca Iddon	Tai Cymoedd i'r Arfordir
Ian Catterall	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Deb Bowen Rees	NED
Neil Webb	Glas Cymru
Ceinwen Jones	Cyngor Conwy
Kayleigh Ford	Cyngor ar Bopeth
Joanna Gulliford	Llywodraeth Cymru, Y Gangen Dŵr

Elizabeth Warwick	Wales & West Utilities
Kate Newton	Dŵr Cymru Welsh Water
Peter Davies	Cadeirydd y Grŵp Herio ar ran Cwsmeriaid
Mark Jones	Cartrefi Conwy
Nigel Winnan	Wales & West Utilities
Tony Bracey	Llywodraeth Cymru
Sally Thomas	
Lynne Darbyshire	



Jenny Rathbone AS  
Cadeirydd  
Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
[SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru](mailto:SeneddCydraddoldeb@senedd.cymru)

19 Gorffennaf 2021

Annwyl Ms Rathbone

## Ystyried y Gymraeg yng ngwaith y Pwyllgor

Rwyf yn ysgrifennu atoch ar ddechrau cyfnod y chweched Senedd i'ch annog i sicrhau y bydd y Pwyllgor yn rhoi ystyriaeth lawn i'r Gymraeg ym mhob agwedd o'i waith.

Yn *Strategaeth Cymraeg 2050* cyhoeddodd Llywodraeth Cymru y weledigaeth o gyrraedd miliwn o siaradwyr Cymraeg a chynyddu'r ganran sy'n siarad y Gymraeg yn ddyddiol i 20%. Mae'r strategaeth yn cynnwys cerrig milltir i fesur llwyddiant ei chyflawniad, gyda'r garreg filltir gyntaf yn 2021 a'r nesaf yn 2026. Yng nghyfnod y Chweched Senedd bydd raid bwrw ati o ddifri i ddwyn y Llywodraeth i gyfrif am y graddau y mae'r Strategaeth yn cael ei chyflawni a'r cerrig milltir yn cael eu cyrraedd. Yn hynny o beth mae'n hollbwysig prif ffrydio'r Gymraeg i ddeddfwriaeth a pholisi ehangach ac mae'n bryder gennyf nad oes digon o graffu ar effaith deddfwriaeth a pholisi ehangach ar y Gymraeg yn gyffredinol. Yn wir, nododd Eluned Morgan, y Gweinidog blaenorol dros Iechyd Meddwl, Llesiant a'r Gymraeg, mewn sesiwn graffu:

... I would suggest that actually, rather than just holding me to account when it comes to the budget, [...] that actually you ask the other Ministers, who've got huge amounts of money, what they're doing within their budgets in relation to the Welsh language.”  
(Cyfarfod Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cymraeg a Chyfathrebu, 25 Chwefror 2021)

Pwysleisïaf na ddylid ystyried y Gymraeg yn fater diwylliannol yn unig gan ei bod yn iaith fyw ym mhob un o gymunedau Cymru ac yn brif iaith yn nifer ohonynt. Mae'r cymunedau

Comisiynydd y Gymraeg  
Siambrau'r Farchnad  
5-7 Heol Eglwys Fair  
Caerdydd CF10 1AT

0345 6033 221  
post@comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru  
Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg

comisiynyddygyymraeg.cymru

Welsh Language Commissioner  
Market Chambers  
5-7 St Mary Street  
Cardiff CF10 1AT

0345 6033 221  
post@welshlanguagecommissioner.wales  
Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English

welshlanguagecommissioner.wales

hynny yn wynebu nifer o heriau cymdeithasol ac economaidd sydd yn eu tro yn herio hyfywedd y Gymraeg yn y cymunedau hynny.

Yng nghyd-destun cylch gwaith y pwyllgor ar waith teg, ym mis Ebrill eleni ymatebodd y Comisiynydd i ymgynghoriad y Llywodraeth ar Fil Drafft Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol a Chaffael Cyhoeddus (Cymru). Ymhlith agweddau eraill ar y Bil, trafodwyd diffiniad gwaith teg adroddiad Gwaith Teg Cymru (2019), lle disgrifia'r Comisiwn Gwaith Teg chwe phrif nodwedd. O'r rhain, tynnodd y Comisiynydd sylw yn benodol at lais y cyflogai; y cyfle i dyfu ac i gamu ymlaen; amgylchedd gwaith cynhwysol a hawliau cyfreithiol yn cael eu parchu. Mae sicrhau'r cyfle i ddefnyddio'r Gymraeg yn y gwaith, i ddatblygu sgiliau Gymraeg neu i ennill sgiliau iaith newydd yn hollbwysig ar gyfer gwaith teg. Cyfeiriwyd yn ogystal at Ddeddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 sydd hefyd yn rhan o gylch gorchwyl y pwyllgor. Mae'r Ddeddf Llesiant yn cynnwys y nod 'Cymru â diwylliant bywiog lle mae'r Gymraeg yn ffynnu' ac rwyf yn gobeithio y bydd y nod hwnnw yn tanategu gwaith y pwyllgor yn ystod cyfnod y Senedd hwn.

Cyhoeddodd y Comisiynydd ddogfen maniffesto ar gyfer etholiad 2021<sup>1</sup> yn datgan bod angen ystyried amrediad eang o ffactorau sy'n effeithio ar y Gymraeg. Mae'n nodi ei bod yn hollbwysig i'r Llywodraeth newydd ymrwymo i roi sefydlogrwydd i'r strwythurau a'r hawliau sydd eisoes yn bodoli'n sgil Mesur y Gymraeg, yn ogystal â chysoni profiadau siaradwyr Gymraeg. Y ffordd o wneud hynny yw trwy safonau'r Gymraeg. Rhain yw'r dyletswyddau gaiff eu gosod ar sefydliadau cyhoeddus i ddefnyddio ac ystyried y Gymraeg, gan sicrhau cysondeb ac ansawdd gwasanaethau yn yr iaith. Er mwyn galluogi'r Comisiynydd i osod safonau, mae'n rhaid i'r Llywodraeth baratoi safonau a chyflwyno rheoliadau. Daeth y set ddiweddaraf o reoliadau i rym ym mis Mehefin 2018. Rydym wedi cyflwyno rhaglen i'r Llywodraeth ei hystyried ar gyfer symud y gwaith hwn yn ei flaen cyn gynted â phosibl. Byddai'n addas i'r Pwyllgor hefyd sicrhau bod y rhaglen hon yn cael ei gweithredu cyn gynted ag y bo modd er mwyn cadarnhau hawliau siaradwyr Gymraeg.

Gobeithio y byddwch yn cadw'r sylwadau hyn mewn cof wrth i chi ystyried gwaith y pwyllgor i'r dyfodol. Dymunaf bob llwyddiant i chi yn y gwaith hwnnw ac edrychwn ymlaen at gyfrannu ato.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir



Gwenith Price  
**Dirprwy Gomisiynydd y Gymraeg**

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<sup>1</sup> [Maniffesto \(positif.wales\)](https://www.gov.wales/maniffesto)



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**Children, Young People  
and Education Committee**

At:

Y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith

Y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol

Y Pwyllgor Economi, Masnach a Materion Gwledig

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

Y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol

Y Pwyllgor Deddfwriaeth, Cyfiawnder a'r Cyfansoddiad

Y Pwyllgor Llywodraeth Leol a Thai

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus a Gweinyddiaeth Gyhoeddus

20 Gorffennaf 2021

Annwyl Gadeiryddion

**Blaenoriaethau plant a phobl ifanc ar gyfer y Chweched Senedd**

Fel Pwyllgor y Senedd sy'n gyfrifol am graffu ar yr holl faterion sy'n ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc, ein bwriad yw sicrhau bod lleisiau plant a phobl ifanc yn cael eu clywed fel mater o drefn yng ngwaith ein Pwyllgor. Yn ein cyfarfod cyntaf ar 14 Gorffennaf, cytunwyd y byddai hyn yn flaenoriaeth allweddol gennym.

Er mwyn llywio ein gwaith cynllunio strategol a'n blaenraglen waith, rydym yn bwriadu cynnal rhaglen wedi'i theilwra o ymgysylltu pwrpasol â phlant a phobl ifanc. Bydd y gwaith hwn yn dechrau yn rhyddor yr hydref. Bydd ein ffocws cychwynnol ar ofyn i blant a phobl ifanc beth maen nhw'n feddwl ddylai blaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd fod.

O ystyried y bydd yr amrywiaeth o safbwyntiau sydd gan blant a phobl ifanc yn berthnasol i gylch gwaith eich pwyllgor chi, byddwn yn sicrhau bod canlyniadau'r gweithgaredd hwn yn cael eu rhannu â chi, er mwyn sicrhau y gall eich gwaith chwithau ystyried eu barn. Bydd tîm ein Pwyllgor yn sicrhau bod eich timau'n cael y wybodaeth ddiweddaraf am y cynlluniau wrth iddynt ddatblygu, a byddant yn cadarnhau amserlenni maes o law.

Cofion cynnes,



Jayne Bryant AS

Cadeirydd

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg | We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

## Eitem 4.8

# R N I B

Cymru

Golwg gwahanol

See differently

**RNIB Cymru**

Cwrt Jones, Stryd Womanby,  
Caerdydd, CF10 1BR

Tiny Rebel, Stryd Womanby,  
Caerdydd, CF10 1BR

**[rnib.org.uk/Cymru](https://rnib.org.uk/Cymru)**

Llinell Gymorth: 0303 123 9999  
[helpline@rnib.org.uk](mailto:helpline@rnib.org.uk)

At: Aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a  
Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

23 Gorffennaf 2021

### **Ynghylch: Ymchwil diweddaraf RNIB i brofiadau pleidleisio pobl ddall ac â golwg rhannol**

Rwy'n ysgrifennu at aelodau o'r Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol i dynnu eich sylw at ymchwil diweddar a gyhoeddwyd gan RNIB i brofiadau pleidleisio pobl ddall ac â golwg rhannol sy'n datgelu bod pobl â cholled golwg yn dal i wynebu rhwystrau annerbyniol wrth arfer yr hawl ddemocrataidd sylfaenol hon, bron i 150 o flynyddoedd ar ôl i'r Ddeddf Bleidleisio sicrhau'r hawl i bleidlais gyfrinachol.

Canfu ymchwil gan RNIB, sydd wedi'i amlinellu yn yr adroddiad 'Turned Out' atodedig, mai dim ond un ym mhob pump (19 y cant) o bleidleiswyr dall, a llai na hanner (46 y cant) o bleidleiswyr â golwg rhannol, oedd yn gallu pleidleisio'n annibynnol ac yn gyfrinachol yn yr etholiadau a gynhaliwyd ym mis Mai 2021, oedd yn cynnwys etholiadau'r Senedd. Yn ogystal, roedd llai na thraean y pleidleiswyr dall yn hapus â'u profiadau pleidleisio yn yr etholiadau eleni.

### **Problemau'r system bresennol**

Ar hyn o bryd, mae'n rhaid i bob gorsaf bleidleisio fod â fersiwn print bras o'r papur pleidleisio a dyfais bleidleisio gyffyrddadwy (TVD). Templed plastig yw'r ddyfais bleidleisio gyffyrddadwy sy'n cael ei osod dros y papur pleidleisio er mwyn galluogi pobl ddall ac â golwg rhannol i ddod o hyd i'r blychau pleidleisio ac i wybod ble i roi eu croes.

Fodd bynnag, nid yw'n dweud wrth y pleidleisiwr beth yw enwau a phleidiau'r ymgeiswyr. Mae hyn yn golygu bod angen cymorth gan aelod o'r teulu, ffrind, neu aelod o staff yr orsaf bleidleisio i ddarparu'r wybodaeth hon ar y rhan fwyaf o bobl â cholled golwg fel eu bod yn rhoi croes yn y blwch cywir. Ym mis Mai 2019, cafodd y system hon ei datgan fel un anghyfreithlon gan ddyfarniad llys.

## **Treial dyfais sain**

Ar gyfer etholiadau mis Mai, bu RNIB yn gweithio gyda Swyddfa'r Cabinet yn San Steffan er mwyn treialu dewis mwy hygyrch ar gyfer pobl â cholled golwg. Roedd hyn yn cynnwys defnyddio dyfais sain mewn gorsafoedd pleidleisio a oedd yn galluogi unigolion i wrando ar enwau'r ymgeiswyr, a thrwy ddefnyddio'r ddyfais sain ochr yn ochr â dyfais bleidleisio gyffyrddadwy roedd modd i unigolion wybod enwau'r ymgeiswyr a phleidleisio heb yr angen i neb arall fod yn bresennol. Arweiniodd cyflwyno'r ddyfais sain at wahaniaeth enfawr o ran gwneud pleidleisio yn brofiad cynhwysol a hygyrch i'r rhai a gymerodd ran.

Mae'r materion eraill sy'n cael eu trafod yn yr adroddiad yn cynnwys diffyg gwybodaeth hygyrch ar gael i bobl ddall ac â golwg rhannol cyn yr etholiadau; anghysondebau o ran hyfforddi staff gorsafoedd pleidleisio a lefelau gwybodaeth am y ffordd orau o gefnogi pleidleiswyr dall ac â golwg rhannol ar ddiwrnod yr etholiad; a phroblemau o ran diffyg hygyrchedd gyda'r system bleidleisio drwy'r post.

## **Argymhellion**

Mae RNIB yn galw am weithredu ar frys i wella profiadau pleidleiswyr dall ac â golwg rhannol cyn yr etholiadau lleol a fydd yn cael eu cynnal ym mis Mai 2022. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys:

- Sicrhau bod y chwaraewr sain a'r ddyfais bleidleisio gyffyrddadwy yn cael eu cyflwyno i orsafoedd pleidleisio er mwyn galluogi pobl ddall ac â golwg rhannol i bleidleisio'n annibynnol ac yn gyfrinachol
- Sicrhau bod Swyddogion Llywyddu a'u staff wedi cael hyfforddiant ar golli golwg, ac am y cymorth y dylent ei gynnig i bobl ddall ac â golwg rhannol.
- Sicrhau bod gwybodaeth sy'n cael ei darparu gan y gwasanaethau etholiadol cyn yr etholiadau mewn fformatau hygyrch
- Sicrhau bod y system pleidleisio drwy'r post yn gwbl hygyrch i bobl ddall ac â golwg rhannol

Byddem yn hapus i drefnu cyflwyniad ar ganfyddiadau'r adroddiad ar gyfer y Pwyllgor be bai hynny o gymorth i chi. Os hoffech fanteisio ar y cyfle yma, mae modd i swyddogion y Pwyllgor gysylltu ag Elin Edwards, Rheolwr Materion Allanol RNIB Cymru, drwy [Elin.Edwards@rnib.org.uk](mailto:Elin.Edwards@rnib.org.uk).

Yn gywir

Ansley Workman  
Cyfarwyddwr, RNIB Cymru

# Turned Out 2021

How blind and partially sighted people  
are still waiting to vote in secret



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- 3 Summary and recommendations
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**“My ability to vote in a democratic society is very important to me. Each time we go to vote, I feel less independent.”**

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## Summary and recommendations

The right to vote independently, and in secret, is a cornerstone of our democracy. Yet nearly 150 years after the Ballot Act – which guaranteed the right to vote in secret – blind and partially sighted people still face unacceptable barriers to exercising their democratic right to vote.

RNIB has campaigned on this issue for many years, calling on the UK Government to create an accessible voting system and guarantee blind and partially sighted voters can access information about elections and candidates independently.

When voting, blind and partially sighted people, without any assistance, should be able to:

- review the candidates on the ballot paper.
- reliably find, and mark, their chosen candidate on the official ballot paper.
- be in sole control of the secrecy of their vote.

Around 350,000 registered blind or partially sighted people live in the UK; an estimated two million people live with sight loss that affects their daily lives.

Sight loss is a spectrum and every eye condition affects someone's sight differently. The majority (93 per cent) of people who are registered blind or partially sighted have some usable sight.

## Turned Out 2021 headlines

- 10 out of the 11 people (91 per cent) who used the audio device in the Norfolk trial reported that they were either very satisfied or quite satisfied with their overall voting experience this year, compared with 39 per cent of blind and partially sighted voters overall.
- Only one in five (19 per cent) blind voters and less than half (46 per cent) of partially sighted voters said they could vote independently and in secret under the current voting system.
- Less than a third (30 per cent) of blind voters were satisfied with their experience of voting.
- More than half (53 per cent) of blind people reported being unable to read any information regarding the election sent to them by local councils, including polling cards.
- Eight out of 10 (81 per cent) think offering blind and partially sighted voters an audio player to assist them to vote is a good idea.
- One in three (29 per cent) blind and partially sighted people who used the tactile voting device (TVD) to help them vote, said it did not fit the ballot paper.
- A third (31 per cent) of blind voters said the support they received at the polling station was poor.
- 40,000 blind and partially sighted people risk being disenfranchised by the proposed imposition of voter ID.



# RNIB recommendations for UK Government and local electoral services

1. Roll out the audio player and TVD trialled in Norfolk to enable blind and partially sighted people to vote more independently, and in secret, by elections in 2022.
  2. Publicise better accessible voting options, and the support available within a polling station before polling day and within polling stations on the day so blind and partially sighted people know what support they can expect and request.
  3. Publish the names of candidates, and their order on ballot papers online and in local electoral offices (and in accessible formats), before elections so blind and partially sighted people can find who they want to vote for and where they will be placed on the ballot paper.
  4. Work with RNIB to ensure Presiding Officers and their staff are fully trained on sight loss, different sight conditions, and the support they should offer.
  5. Review and revise the postal voting system to make it accessible for blind and partially sighted people.
  6. Local authorities should update local registers of blind and partially sighted people, collect information on preferred formats, using them to send items like poll cards in formats voters can read.
  7. Imposing a photographic voter ID requirement risks further disenfranchising tens of thousands of blind and partially sighted people.
- If voter ID plans are to go ahead the Government must make sure poll cards are available in people's preferred formats, and accept these, as well as photographic ID, as proof of eligibility to vote at the polling station.

## Methodology

We had 626 responses from blind and partially sighted people, the highest number we have had for any of our Turned Out surveys. Continuing restrictions and social distancing measures meant there were more barriers than ever to blind and partially sighted people exercising their right to vote independently and in secret.

Due to research timescales, this was a self-selecting online survey advertised through email and social media. It is therefore likely to exclude the experience of those people with sight loss who do not use the internet.

Of those who took part in the survey, 50 per cent are blind and 50 per cent are partially sighted voters, reflective of the blind and partially sighted population in the UK.

This survey is more representative of the experiences of younger blind and partially sighted people. While around

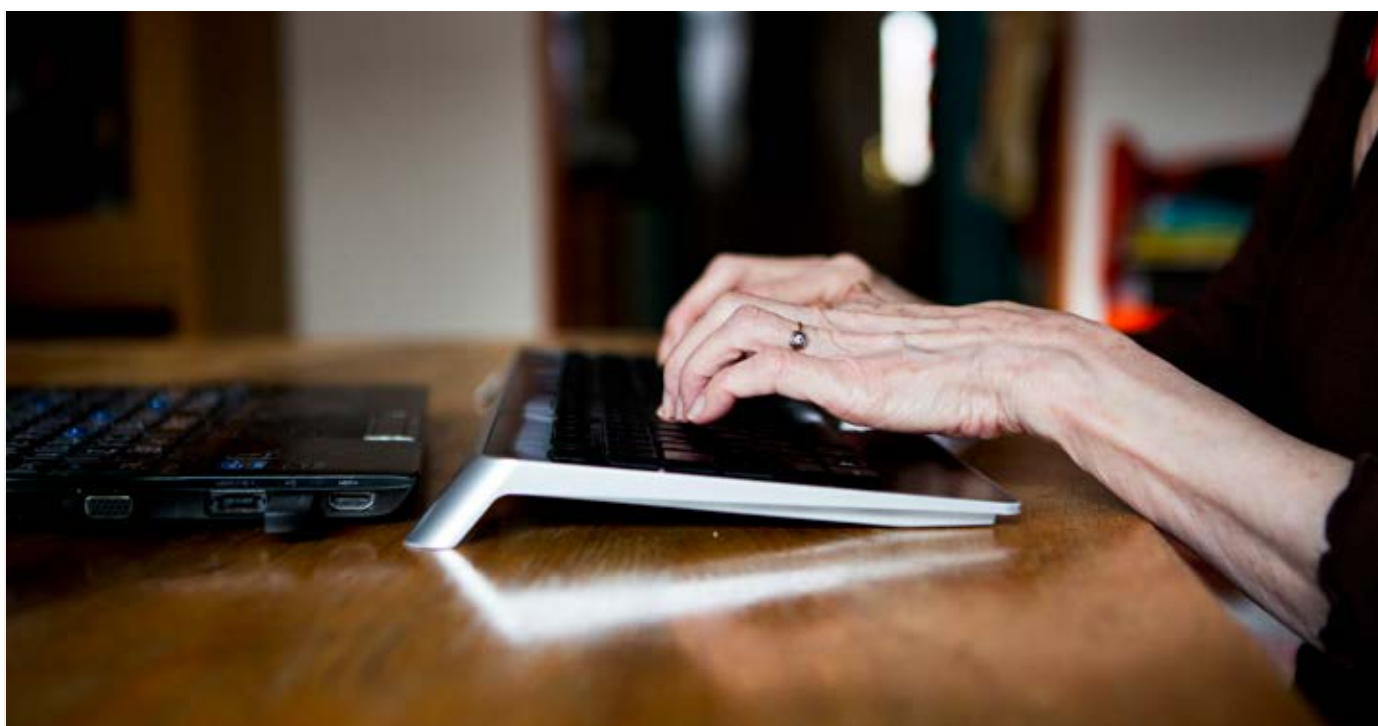
We had

# 626

responses from blind and partially sighted people to the survey

a quarter of the general population of blind and partially sighted people are working age, 63 per cent of respondents to the survey were aged under 65.

This report also contains information relating to Voter ID, gathered as part of RNIB's regular Tracker Survey into the experiences of blind and partially sighted people. The Tracker survey of more than 400 blind and partially sighted people was conducted in February and March 2021. Findings are representative of the wider population, including by age.



## Background to Turned Out 2021

We have been surveying blind and partially sighted people's experiences of voting at each General Election since 2015. Elections were postponed in 2020 due to coronavirus restrictions, ensuring a large number of elections were held in 2021. There were local elections across the countries, Police and Crime Commissioner elections, Welsh Parliament/Senedd Cymru elections in Wales, Scottish Parliamentary elections and London Mayor and London Assembly elections.

Despite it not being a General Election year, we decided to run this Turned Out survey in 2021 so we could compare the experiences of voters under the existing system, with those taking part in the trial of an audio device to improve voting accessibility.

In law, to enable blind and partially sighted people to vote, each polling station must provide:

- a large print version of the ballot paper; and
- a tactile voting device (TVD).

The TVD is a plastic template, which the Presiding Officer can put over the ballot paper to enable blind and partially sighted people to locate the voting boxes and find where to make their mark. However, it does not tell the voter the names or parties of the candidates. Any voter wishing to rely on the TVD alone would be dependent on knowing the order of the candidates as printed on the ballot paper. In practice, this means many people require

assistance, from a family member, friend, or member of polling station staff, to provide this information so the voter can mark the right box.

These provisions used to make ballot papers accessible for blind and partially sighted voters were declared unlawful in May 2019 in a case brought by law firm Leigh Day, on behalf of campaigner Rachael Andrews, with RNIB providing supportive evidence.

While we know online voting would be a popular choice for many, the Cabinet Office has ruled this out as an option for our electoral system in the immediate future, because of security risks to online systems which could theoretically undermine the reliability of the vote. It is also concerned that braille, tactile, or large print ballot papers would be identifiable when placed with other ballots at the count.

In the judgement following 2019's Rachael Andrews' case, Justice Swift said: "a device in the form of the present TVD would [meet its obligations] if, in addition to the flaps and raised/braille numbers on

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**91%**  
of blind people and

**54%**  
of partially sighted people had to get another person to help them to vote in the polling station.

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the right-hand side, the names of the candidates and/or the names of their political parties were present in braille and/or raised lettering in corresponding position, on the left-hand side of the device."

However, based on electoral timelines, we understand from the Cabinet Office that it is impossible for manufacturers to produce individual TVDs for each constituency in the window between candidate lists being finalised and the polls.

The information they would need to contain would also make them unwieldy. Moreover, if the details were embossed in braille, it would exclude the majority of blind and partially sighted people, and those with sight loss who do not read braille.

Meanwhile, in 2020, amendments to the Scottish Elections (Reform) Bill that RNIB Scotland lobbied for passed with support from all the parties represented in the Scottish Parliament. As a result, there will now be pilots run by the Scottish Government to develop an alternative method of voting which is accessible to blind or partially sighted people.

RNIB Scotland is currently working with the Scottish Government on their early stage development of a home-based online voting method which would produce a QR code to return to electoral authorities.

The 2020 Act also requires the Electoral Commission in Scotland to publish reports on the accessibility of elections in Scotland, which is in its early stages and will be reviewed as to its effectiveness.



## An independent and private vote?

Only one in five (19 per cent) blind voters and less than half (46 per cent) of partially sighted voters who voted in the May 2021 elections said they could vote independently and in secret under the current voting system.

At the polling station, nine out of ten (91 per cent) blind people and five out of ten (54 per cent) partially sighted people had to get another person to help them to vote.

As revealed in Turned Out 2019 this disparity in experiences between blind and partially sighted voters suggests that those blind and partially sighted people who are able to vote independently are relying on their usable vision.

- "I cannot cast the vote independently and in secret. This is frustrating as I don't want to share my political views with other people.
- "I usually have my partner with me to help which makes things easier but today I was alone which made me realise just how dependent I am on others. Very negative from start to finish."

Postal voting also needs reform, with three quarters (74 per cent) of blind and half (50 per cent) of partially sighted postal voters having to seek assistance from another person.

- "My daughter had to point out the candidates and she had to guide me to where to put the cross, so I had no privacy in my vote."
- "As like most people we had more than one vote to do and as it was a postal vote it made a lot extra work for my PA to have to fold all the relevant choices into the correct envelopes – this could have been made much more simple."

Voting is a fundamental democratic right. It is essential changes are made to ensure that blind and partially sighted voters can vote independently, and in secret, however they choose to vote.



## Voting satisfaction

Overall, only two fifths (39 per cent) of blind and partially sighted people are satisfied with their experience of voting while the same proportion (40 per cent) are dissatisfied with their experience of voting. The experience is judged to be less satisfactory by blind voters, of whom just 30 per cent are satisfied while 44 per cent are dissatisfied. Meanwhile 47 per cent of partially sighted voters are satisfied with their experience of voting compared with 35 per cent who are dissatisfied.

- "My ability to vote in a democratic society, is very important to me. Each time we go to vote, I feel less independent."
- "I am really disappointed with not being able to vote on my own when a sighted peer gets the option to do so without any problems, assistance, worry and able to do so in private."
- "I am able to read with my magnifier therefore I can vote independently."



## Making voting accessible to blind and partially sighted people will require wholesale changes to the system

Making voting accessible to blind and partially sighted people will require wholesale changes to the system: in materials sent before the election, staff training, and adaptations available in the polling station, as well as changes to make postal voting accessible.

RNIB's User Experience team – which provides consultancy on accessible products – ran studies on the future of voting with the Cabinet Office in January 2020 to find a way to enable blind and partially sighted people to independently match the relevant hole in the TVD with the right candidate.

They tested the concept of using an audio device with headphones so blind and partially sighted people could read the names and details of the candidates. Used alongside the TVD, this would ensure no need for another person to be present while the list of candidates is reviewed and the vote cast. The audio players have raised, tactile buttons and are easy to use independently. Information about the candidates would be recorded onto USB sticks by Presiding Officers before the election. Plugged into the players, these would be taken into the voting booth by blind and partially sighted people.

Testers reported:

- “Very good idea and quite easy. Easier to vote for one. Would feel confident using this. Would prefer voting with the audio device, have more privacy.”
- “That was good. Prefer to use the audio device and use it independently rather than postal vote.”
- “It is good, better than having somebody read this out. More independent. What would put me off is that it is an extra thing you have to have. The biggest problem is that in my local polling station I feel they would not do it discreetly and that is important. So, prefer my partner to help me. The actual process [of the audio device and TVD] is fine as I can vote independently and privately.”

RNIB called on the UK Government in 2020 to roll out the audio player alongside the TVD in time for the elections in May 2021.

However, in November 2020, the Cabinet Office advised that this was no longer possible due to practical difficulties in procuring the audio players in time. Instead, RNIB agreed to support with the delivery of a trial to ensure the system works well for blind and partially sighted people.

## The Norfolk Trial

RNIB worked with Broadland and South Norfolk Councils and the Cabinet Office to deliver an accessible voting trial in which voters used an audio player and headphones, alongside the TVD, to vote more independently and in secret during the May 2021 Elections. The audio player and TVD were used in nine polling stations across three electoral districts. Blind and partially sighted people were made aware of the trial through social media, local talking newspapers, and local press and television.

Of the 11 blind and partially sighted people who took part in the trial and completed RNIB's online survey, five were severely sight impaired, six were partially sighted. Overall, reactions to the proposed solution were very positive. Ten participants said the audio player was very helpful, while the other participant said it was quite helpful. When asked if they would use the audio device again, all the participants said that they would.

Ten out of the 11 (91 per cent) participants in Norfolk voting using the audio player and TVD reported that they were either very satisfied or quite satisfied with their overall voting experience this year compared with only 39 per cent of blind and partially sighted respondents across the whole country.

Similarly, ten out of the 11 (91 per cent) participants in the Norfolk trial reported that their voting experience was better than previous years. This is significant when compared with the 15 per cent of blind and partially sighted respondents who, in general, said their voting experience had improved this year. When asked to share their experience of using the audio device participants explained:

- "The speaker and the plastic cover worked well. With my limited sight. I think I know who I voted for. I felt much more confident than last time (although my sight continues to get worse)."
- "The same Kings player I have from Calibre and I used it with the TVD worked OK. Yes, it was much easier."
- "Yes, much better than before. I could hear the candidates through the headphones and used my finger to find the right circle."
- "Much better for me. I listened to the politicians' names on the player and counted down the numbers."
- "Much easier. The sonic talking news player was great."

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## Ten out of 11

participants in the Norfolk trial reported that their voting experience was better than previous years



In follow up interviews, three participants explained they liked the audio device and found it easy to use. They said it added to the feeling of privacy and independence as the person could be left alone to listen to the candidates as many times as they wanted, without having to rely on electoral staff. When headphones were used, they felt this was quite private without intruding on other people and without drawing attention to themselves by having the staff member read out the candidates, sometimes multiple times.

The interviews highlighted some areas for improvement, for example technicalities relating to the audio. It is important when the audio recording is made that the speech is not too fast.

One person commented that they had to listen to it several times to absorb the information. It is essential that the audio list of candidates is numbered so that the numbers line up with the numbers on the TVD.

Others reported they would have appreciated a private area to sit and take their time with the device, and it was emphasised how important headphones are to ensuring choices are private:

- "It would be useful to be able to sit in a separate area and listen to the audio."
- "When using headphones, it was quite private but without you would be drawing a lot of attention to yourself and this would add to the stress."

Blind and partially sighted voters taking part in the trial also highlighted that, while voting independently using the audio player and TVD, there is still anxiety relating to not being able to be sure whether the pen has marked the paper and whether the mark is put in the correct location.

As a result, some still felt that they had to ask polling station staff to check that they voted correctly as they were not confident in using the TVD, this means that the vote is not private. One voter suggested a stamp with a cross might give them more confidence in the process.

Our survey found overall eight out of ten (81 per cent) blind and partially sighted voters in the UK thought being offered an audio player to assist them to vote in the polling station is a good idea.

RNIB is confident the proposed accessible voting solution will enable more people to vote independently, but it is not a panacea because of these remaining difficulties.

Along with changes that need to be made to better train staff, and ensure consistency of experience, many blind and partially sighted people continue to tell us they would prefer telephone or online voting.

In addition, clear communication on what accessible methods are available for people to use at the polling station is key. This way people can prepare themselves before coming in to vote and they know to ask for the assistance they need. It also helps if the list of candidates is easily and accessibly available to review prior to voting so it is clear what to expect on the day.

## Information prior to the election

Blind and partially sighted people who responded to our survey reported not being able to access information sent to them prior to the election, both from local councils and political parties.

Under the Equality Act, service providers are obliged to provide information in an accessible format as a reasonable adjustment to provide equal access to their services.

Political parties need to prioritise this issue to ensure they are reaching all their potential voters and giving citizens access to the information they need to inform their choice. Failure to provide this information in an accessible format is likely to be a breach of the Equality Act.

- "I couldn't read any of the leaflets from any of the candidates."
- "Information from campaigners and councils should be made available on a centralised website for easier access/reading."

Just 12 per cent of blind people and 32 per cent of partially sighted people said they were able to read all of the information sent to them by their local council, including poll cards.

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# Just 12%

**of blind people said they were able to read all of the information sent to them by their local council.**

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53 per cent of blind people and 15 per cent of partially sighted people said they couldn't read any of the information the council sent them, which is the same as in 2019.

Local electoral services should be sending information about an election in accessible formats. Local authorities hold registers of blind and partially sighted people and, in England, Care Act guidance has been amended to make it clear that local authority services, including electoral services, could use these registers to make sure they are sending information in accessible formats to blind and partially sighted people.

- "I didn't receive any of this information in an accessible format. I learned at a later date I could request this, but it was then too late."
- "All material I received was provided in standard print which is not good for me because I don't have any sight. Braille or other alternatives would have been better."

Local authorities should update local registers of blind and partially sighted people, collect information on preferred formats, and use them to send items like poll cards in formats that voters can read.

## Polling stations, postal and proxy voting

### At the polling station

Our survey found 54 per cent of blind and partially sighted people who were able to vote did so at a polling station. These voters reported experiences which suggest inconsistencies in staff training and levels of knowledge in how to support blind and partially sighted voters. Only two out of five (40 per cent) blind voters said that the support they received at the polling station was good, while a third (31 per cent) said the support they received was poor.

Coronavirus restrictions meant the 2021 Elections were particularly challenging for councils and polling station staff. New policies and procedures had to be put in place to ensure a safe and secure environment for staff and voters, and local authorities reported difficulty in recruiting the required number of polling station staff.

These challenges meant blind and partially sighted people experienced additional difficulty getting the support they needed at polling stations.



Voting experiences were mixed with few positive reports:

- "The staff were very clearly trying their best, but, because I had problems using the tactile device, my dad who was helping me vote had to fill out a form stating that he was helping me. This has never happened before, and I've spoken to other people who did not have this experience. I think there needs to be some consistency in the system."
- "At no time did staff say they would offer assistance if required. Neither were there any signs explaining if you required assistance to ask a member of staff."
- "Very supportive, efficient and helpful."
- "They asked if I was okay, but the help was limited due to social distancing."
- "I explained I can't see well but no assistance was offered, just a prompting where to fetch the ballot paper from. I stood as my name was crossed off the voting list but did not see and was not told that another woman further down the table was holding my papers out to me."

I went to the voting booth and was obviously struggling but no assistance was offered. Then I had to ask where the ballot box was. The staff member (who I told earlier about my sight) just waved his arm saying: "over there".

Then I wasn't sure where the exit was and no one told me, by which point I felt humiliated and reluctant

to ask for help again. Not a positive experience at all, one which I doubt I will repeat."

- "The staff were very patronising. Despite me not needing any assistance, they talked to me like a child (I'm 20) and asked me if I could "cope" with voting."
- "As it stands, it's a totally humiliating experience from start to finish, no assistance offered at any stage with people there just making assumptions that everyone can see. If staff there were trained on responses to people with sight impairment the whole experience could be improved."

It is essential that all polling station staff are aware of their responsibilities under the Equality Act and the Representation of the People Act and know how to support a voter with sight loss. While we suspect staffing difficulties related to coronavirus made this situation worse, we consistently hear reports of poor training affecting experience.

In the Norfolk trial, lack of awareness of sight loss among staff was one of the things highlighted by voters which made using the new audio device more difficult:

- "The officer in the polling station was not familiar with the audio device."
- "The officer in the polling station did not realise that they did not need to supervise the person listening to the audio. This infringed on the person's privacy and once left alone with the audio device it was much easier and less stressful."

All three participants who were able to take part in in-depth interviews with RNIB's User Experience Team felt there was a lack of understanding from polling station officers of the needs of blind and partially sighted people. They said this was apparent when guiding people in the polling station, instructing them to fold the paper (to keep their vote secret), looking over their shoulder and not giving them privacy, and being unable to verbally guide them to put their vote in the ballot box themselves. This, in addition to a potentially stressful journey if the person needs to go to an unfamiliar location, can make the voting process quite difficult.

Norfolk trial participants also raised a lack of knowledge of how to use the TVD and the audio device.

- "There is still a reliance on the officer to fit the TVD correctly and a blind person is not able to check this. During the voting it was a friend that noticed that the TVD was not fitted correctly, and this would have resulted in an incorrect or void vote."
- "The officer in the polling station was not familiar with the TVD and did not know how to use it."
- "The TVD was the incorrect one (European one) and hence did not fit the ballot paper correctly."
- "The backing paper was difficult to remove and therefore the TVD did not stick to the ballot paper and it was difficult to use as it moved around on the ballot paper."

Across the UK, one in three (29 per cent) blind and partially sighted people who used the TVD to help them vote, said it did not fit the ballot paper. This seems to be particularly the case in the Scottish and Welsh Parliamentary elections, where the candidate lists, particularly in regional elections, can be very long.

If the TVD is going to continue to be an important component of voting for blind and partially sighted people in the future, this simply cannot continue. Safeguards will need to be built into the system, with Presiding Officers checking the TVDs sent to each polling station against the local ballot paper.

In advance of the election, RNIB worked with the Electoral Commission and the Association of Electoral Administrators to create training materials for polling station staff. These included a film created with blind and partially sighted people, a handy tips guide on how to support blind and partially sighted people and input into the Handbook for Polling Station Staff.

RNIB Cymru also worked with the Electoral Commission to produce a pocket guide to voting, which provided useful tips and advice for blind and partially sighted voters, so they were aware of their rights, and what to expect, when voting. The introduction of new measures to support blind and partially sighted people to vote is a prime opportunity to retrain polling station staff in supporting voters with sight loss. RNIB is keen to support in the development of appropriate training materials.



## Postal voting

Nearly half (45 per cent) of blind and partially sighted people used a postal vote, with 47 per cent of blind respondents and 44 per cent of partially sighted respondents voting this way. This is substantially higher than in 2019 when 31 per cent of blind respondents and 26 per cent of partially sighted respondents voted by post, likely due to coronavirus restrictions. Voter experience of postal voting was mixed and there is still a lot to do to ensure postal voting is fully accessible to blind and partially sighted people:

- "The idea of a postal vote seemed a great idea, however the reality was not suitable for persons with sight loss. It would be nice if they asked if another format could have been offered."
- "Another person filled in the ballot paper for me. I had not wanted that person to know how I vote."
- "I had to be very careful to place the forms in the right envelopes in order not to spoil the vote."
- "It was difficult and took some time. Initially I left out a ballot paper because it did not indicate how many ballots there were."
- "I could not have managed by myself. I had to vote three times so there was lots of paperwork. I would've just got frustrated and given up without the help of my daughter."
- "Having a postal vote gives me plenty of time to read and cast my vote. There is no pressure and also I don't feel nervous about going to the polling station."

- "Hideous!! It is a complicated process and it should be simpler or have a clear alternative for people with sight loss."
- "The instructions were confusing, and it felt like there was too much information to read and it also seemed contradictory. My sighted husband and I managed to work it out, but it wasn't easy."

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**As in 2019, we are calling on the Government to review and revise the postal voting system to make it accessible for blind and partially sighted people.**

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## Proxy voting

A small proportion – less than one per cent – of respondents to our survey chose to use a proxy vote. All respondents, who explained why they chose a proxy vote, said it was because they were not confident in the provisions made to help them vote in a polling station.

## Disenfranchisement of blind and partially sighted people

Disappointingly, 18 respondents to our survey reported attempting to vote but being unable to cast their ballot. Of the 18 people, ten were registered blind. People opted out because of a lack of confidence in the system, or they were faced with inaccessible materials so didn't know how or where to vote:

- "I completed the online form [for a postal vote] but was sent a paper to confirm my signature which I couldn't see and couldn't do... I cried because I couldn't vote. People died to give me the right to vote and this is the first time I've not been able to vote. I am deeply distressed by this."
- "I have to get assistance from my dad, or family member, to fill in the voting ballots so I have to tell him who I want to vote for and for which party I want to vote for. The information is not in an accessible format for me to vote independently."
- "I never received anything, so I don't know as this would've been my first election."
- "Because it needed to be in large print at all times, I have previously voted and it's still the same issue."
- "This year I was expecting postal voting but there was no ballot paper."
- "I had no one to fill in the ballot paper for me and I didn't know what I'd find when I got there with regard to social distancing etc."

A further 25 voters told us they did not attempt to vote; 15 were blind and ten were partially sighted. Six respondents said they thought they would not be able to read the ballot paper, nine said they would be unable to vote in secret – and they didn't want to share their vote with someone else – and two said they did not know there was an election.

It is essential that adaptations available to blind and partially sighted people to enable them to vote are widely publicised ahead of polling day, and clearly explained at the polling station. Without this, blind and partially sighted voters are either being excluded from, or opting out of, the democratic system because of the barriers they face casting a vote.

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**It is unacceptable that blind and partially sighted people are left feeling disenfranchised from the democratic system because it is not accessible.**

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## Voter ID

The Government proposes the introduction of an ID requirement for voting, which will be included in the Elections Bill. RNIB is concerned that the introduction of voter ID will make the electoral process even less accessible for blind and partially sighted voters, who are disproportionately less likely to hold a passport or driving licence.

The sanctity of the voting process is extremely important, but we do not believe the imposition of a voter ID requirement is a proportionate response to the potential for fraud, bearing in mind the number of people it will disenfranchise.

We estimate blind and partially sighted people are twice as likely not to have photographic ID compared to the population generally. This disparity means blind and partially sighted voters are at much greater risk of disenfranchisement by this policy than the general population. RNIB's Tracker Survey suggests 13 per cent of blind and partially sighted people have no acceptable photographic ID, meaning it's possible this new requirement could exclude 40,000 blind and partially sighted people from the electoral process. This is on top of the existing barriers faced by blind and partially sighted people.

Pilots for voter ID were held in 2018 and 2019. The Government said:

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**“There is no indication that any consistent demographic was adversely affected by the use of voter ID.”**

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However demographic information on those turned away from polling stations was not recorded as part of the pilot.

We know at least one blind man was turned away from the polling station and unable to cast his vote because the new requirement had not been communicated in an accessible way, and although he had his polling card with him, the pilot area was not able to accept this as proof of his right to vote.

It is unclear why the Government has chosen to introduce a photographic ID above other forms of ID or proof of address. The Electoral Commission's evaluation of the voter ID trials in England found twice as many people were not issued a ballot paper in (0.4 per cent of voters) for the photo and mixed ID pilot models, compared with the poll card model (0.2 per cent of voters).

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**Proposed voter ID could disenfranchise:**

**40,000**

**Blind and partially sighted people**

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Fewer voters would likely be disenfranchised if people were able to bring their poll cards rather than having to get photo ID. We therefore recommend that if a requirement to show ID is introduced it allows people to bring their poll cards as proof of ID. Of course, this would need to be implemented alongside policies recommended above to make poll cards available in individuals' preferred formats.

If a photographic ID requirement is introduced, the application process for any locally issued voter ID must be fully accessible, and there must be ways for people who are digitally excluded to apply.

During the pandemic RNIB has had to support the Government repeatedly to retrofit policy to make it accessible to blind and partially sighted people. For example, we continue to support the Government to make home coronavirus testing accessible. It is essential that the needs of disabled people are built into the roll out of this policy from the beginning.

Assuming the voter ID requirement goes ahead we will be calling on the Government to:

- Ensure communications around the voter ID requirement are accessible to blind and partially sighted voters and communications are sent in voters preferred formats. Local authorities could use registers of blind and partially sighted people to do this.
- Ensure digitally excluded voters are informed and given the opportunity to register for photographic ID by carrying out a large-scale outreach programme, potentially similar to the door-knocking carried out for the census or the digital switchover help scheme. While this would be an extensive logistical undertaking it would be necessary to ensure that blind and partially sighted voters are not disenfranchised.
- Ensure any locally issued voter ID application process can be accessed in a variety of different ways – for example online, a paper application, or in person – and applications are available in a variety of different formats such as braille, large print and audio. Any web pages used would need to be fully compatible with screenreading software. Blind and partially sighted people have reported that current online application processes for ID, such as passports, are very difficult to navigate.
- It would also be helpful if the voter IDs themselves had a tactile marking that distinguished them from other cards the voter may carry.

## Conclusion

With the Norfolk trial and user testing, we have made some progress towards making voting more accessible for blind and partially sighted people.

The experience of blind and partially sighted people in the trials has been positive, and in the absence of telephone or online voting, it is likely the audio player used alongside the TVD is the best next step forward to deliver more accessible voting for blind and partially sighted people.

Meanwhile, much more needs to be done to improve training in the polling station, the accessibility of postal voting, and to make sure people get information about the election in their preferred formats.

There has been a long wait for accessible voting since current provisions were declared unlawful in May 2019 and the audio player should be rolled out in time for the elections in 2022. Even then, it is unfortunate that this will mean a solution hasn't been implemented until three years after the legal judgement.

At the same time, while we work collaboratively with the UK Governments to improve the accessibility of voting, the prospect of voter ID risks disenfranchising tens of thousands of blind and partially sighted people. We are concerned that if implemented as planned, the Elections Bill will give to blind and partially sighted people with one hand while taking away with another.

Blind and partially sighted people have the same right as everyone else to vote independently and in secret.

Nearly 150 years after the introduction of the right to vote in secret, it is shameful that so many are disenfranchised, have to tell another person their vote, or struggle to get the information they need. An accessible voting system is vital for a healthy democracy.

# Devolved Nations Elections

Following the devolution settlements within the respective nations of the UK, the UK Government is responsible for administering General Elections across England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, while responsibility for delivering devolved elections lies with the devolved administrations.

For example, the Scotland Act 2016 devolved legislative responsibility to the Scottish Parliament for running Scotland-wide elections (Scottish Parliament, Local Government; and referenda), while the UK Government maintains responsibility for UK-wide elections in Scotland. This led to the Scottish Elections (Reform) Act which contains separate measures relating to electoral administration in Scotland.

In Northern Ireland, the Assembly has no legislative power with respect to elections. UK Parliament, Northern Ireland Assembly and Local Government elections are all "excepted matters". The law governing electoral registration and the conduct of elections is contained in a number of primary and secondary legislation.

In Wales, the Welsh Government has powers under the Government of Wales Act 2006 with respect to the Senedd Cymru/Welsh Parliament, local elections and referenda. The Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021 reformed local government electoral arrangements including extending the franchise to 16 and 17 years olds, and The Senedd and Elections (Wales) Act 2020 delivered further reforms to electoral and operational arrangements.







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Jenny Rathbone

By email

23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

Dear Jenny

Congratulations on your election as Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee. We believe that your committee will have a vital role to play in scrutinising the Welsh Government to ensure that they are taking appropriate measures to solve poverty and inequality. We look forward to working with you to achieve these goals.

I am sure you, committee members and the committee team are currently exploring possible inquiries that could be undertaken over the course of the Senedd. We wanted to take the opportunity to get in touch and suggest some policy areas that your committee may wish to focus on in respect of equality and social justice.

### Child Poverty

Child poverty remains stubbornly high in Wales. With more than 3 in 10 children living in poverty, we believe that taking action to solve the problem must be a priority for the new Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government has already shown that it is willing to take action on child poverty. The Welsh Government's decision to commit to providing support in lieu of Free School Meals over the holidays until Easter 2022 is a very positive step, as is the decision to extend the Pupil Development Grant – Access. There is still much more that could be done, however.

An inquiry by your committee could provide an opportunity to take a holistic review of the measures that have been taken to date to solve child poverty. It could provide an opportunity to identify areas for further action and share ideas for better collaboration. With the ending of furlough and the proposed cut to Universal Credit this autumn, this work would be very timely.

### Protecting migrants' rights

Wales' population today reflects more than a hundred years of in-migration from around the world. People who have migrated to Wales make a valuable economic, social and cultural contribution and it is only right they are treated equally with fairness and respect.

Given the recent changes to the immigration system including the ending of free movement there is a real concern about the impact of the hostile environment on migrants living in Wales and on their rights. In our work<sup>1</sup> looking at integration we found that migrants can face hostility, discrimination and barriers. There are concerns that the end of free movement could have an even greater impact on those who live in Wales,

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<sup>1</sup> Bevan Foundation (April 2020) Shared ground: integrating migrants in Wales  
<https://www.bevanfoundation.org/resources/shared-ground-integrating-migrants-in-wales/>


particularly those who have not applied to the EUSS scheme or have received pre-settled status, and who may face restrictions on their ability to access housing, jobs and education or in some cases deportation.

While immigration is a reserved matter, an inquiry by your committee would provide an opportunity to examine the impact of UK policy and identify possibilities to take further action to support people who live, work and study in Wales.

If you would like to discuss any of our ideas further then we'd be delighted to meet with you and your team.

I hope our work is of interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Winckler". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator.

Victoria Winckler,

Director



20 July 2021

The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP,  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Rt Hon Thérèse Coffey MP,  
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions

Dear Rishi and Thérèse,

We are writing as the chairs of our Parliaments' relevant committees regarding the £20 per week uplift to Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit, which is due to end in October.

The UK Government did the right thing at the start of the pandemic to increase Universal Credit and Working Tax Credit to give better support to people during these incredibly challenging times.

This uplift has been a lifeline for millions of families, saving them from being impoverished and we welcomed its extension until October. We now hope you will consider making this uplift permanent and extending it to legacy benefits, which are disproportionately claimed by disabled people.

Ending the uplift would mean that the 6 million people claiming Universal Credit will lose £1040 in annual income overnight. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation has estimated that removing the uplift would force 500,000 people, including 200,000 children, into poverty.<sup>1</sup> Families on the lowest incomes, those with children and particularly single parents, BAME families, and families where someone is disabled are disproportionately affected.

Even with the uplift in place, the Foundation calculates families unable to find work are getting £1,600 less per year in social security support than they would have done in 2011.<sup>2</sup> Families with children are even worse off, receiving around £2,900 less than ten years ago.<sup>3</sup> It is also worth remembering that we entered the pandemic with the main rate of unemployment support at its lowest level in real terms since around 1990, by removing the uplift you will return this form of support to its lowest level in 30 years.

You also risk removing this support from families at the very time unemployment is expected to peak, as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme comes to an end.

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<sup>1</sup> Keep the lifeline: why the Government should keep the £20 uplift to Universal Credit, Briefing, Joseph Rowntree Foundation, January 2021, page 3: <https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/keep-lifeline-why-government-should-keep-20-uplift-universal-credit>

<sup>2</sup>Ibid, page 4

<sup>3</sup> Ibid



Those on lowest incomes spend more of their income in their local area, thereby supporting the economic recovery.

Continuing the uplift is also an important preventative spend measure. By spending now on social security, saving people from poverty you will be saving more money long term on health, education, justice and other social services.

It is also clearly unfair that those in receipt of legacy and other related benefits have not received the same uplift. Their needs are just as great, the value of their social security support fell by just as much over the last decade and they have faced the same difficulties during the pandemic. Their support should be increased by an equivalent amount too.

As the cross-party conveners of the relevant committees, we hope that you will take seriously our view that the uplift should be extended. To give people the certainty and security they deserve it would also be helpful if you could make an early statement confirming your intention and we look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows four handwritten signatures in black ink, arranged horizontally. From left to right, they are: Neil Gray, Stephen Timms, Paula Bradley, and Jenny Rathbone. Each signature is written in a cursive style.

Neil Gray MSP

Stephen Timms MP

Paula Bradley MLA

Jenny Rathbone MS



Department  
for Work &  
Pensions

**RT HON THERESE COFFEY MP**  
Secretary of State for Work & Pensions

The Rt Hon Stephen Timms MP  
Chair, Work and Pensions Committee

572

August 2021

*Dear Stephen,*

### **RESPONSE TO JOINT LETTER**

I recently received your letter co-signed by the Chairs of the relevant committees in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Since the start of the pandemic, the Government's priority has been to protect lives and people's livelihoods.

That is why the Chancellor announced in the March Budget that the temporary £20 a week increase in Universal Credit was to be extended for a further six months, until October. This formed a part of a £400 billion package of measures put in place to support people through the pandemic well beyond the end of the roadmap out of national lockdown.

Now the economy has reopened it is right that the Government should focus on supporting people back into work and supporting those already employed to progress in their careers. Our ambition is to support two million people move into and progress in work through our comprehensive £33 billion Plan for Jobs.

This includes, £2 billion for our Kickstart programme, which provides 6-month work placements for Universal Credit claimants aged 16-24; £2.3 billion for an additional 13,500 Work Coaches to support people into work; and £2.9 billion for our Restart programme, which provides 12 months' intensive employment support to Universal Credit claimants who are unemployed for a year. Through this programme the Government will continue to support individuals and businesses.

Finally, at my appearance at the Work and Pensions Select Committee on 7 July, I was clear the department would communicate with claimants as the uplift came to an end. In his letter to you on 22 July and the Minister for Welfare delivery notified you of our first communication with claimants.

I am copying this response to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Neil Gray MSP, Paula Bradley MLA and Jenny Rathbone MS.

*Yours sincerely,*

Tudalen y pecyn 131



Our Ref: AH/SMM

11 August 2021

Jenny Rathbone MS  
Chair  
Equality and Social Justice Committee

Dear Jenny

I recently met with RNIB Cymru (Royal National Institute of Blind People) and was interested to learn more about the challenges that people with sight loss face daily in Wales.

Since the pandemic, blind and partially sighted people have faced additional challenges, some exacerbated by the necessitated changes and restrictions. For example, social distancing is by definition more difficult – if not impossible – for those who cannot use vision to judge distance.

I understand that there have been and continue to be issues with the accessibility of public health information. For example, letters inviting individuals for a vaccine, have not routinely been available in accessible formats. Information available and guidance at vaccine centres has not been accessible and we have heard of the particularly poor experiences of some individuals with sight loss going to receive their vaccine. I feel this is a matter of equality. Blind and partially sighted members of our community should have equal access to care.

In eye care, we know that the pandemic has meant a huge backlog of appointments across all eye conditions. However, even before coronavirus, people were losing sight because of the phenomenal waiting times. In January 2021, of the highest risk category patients, 57.3 per cent – **nearly two thirds of the waiting list** – were beyond target and therefore listed as being at risk of irreversible harm or significant adverse outcome.

#### WELSH PARLIAMENT

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

#### REGIONAL OFFICE

80 High Street, Gorseinon,  
Swansea SA4 4BL

#### SENEDD CYMRU

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd  
CF99 1SN

#### SWYDDFA RANBARTHOL

80 Stryd Fawr, Abertawe  
Abertawe SA4 4BL

t: 0300 200 7259

e: [altaf.hussain@senedd.wales](mailto:altaf.hussain@senedd.wales)

 [altafhussainsww](https://twitter.com/altafhussainsww)

Tudalen y pecyn 132



Ceidwadwyr  
Cymreig





The Welsh Government introduced Eye Care Measures in 2018 to support Health Boards to prioritise patients based on their clinical needs. As the first country in the UK to have dedicated targets for eye care, these should be welcomed, but what we have now is stark evidence as to the scale of the problem being faced. No one should lose their sight because of needless waits for treatment.

Given the disproportionate impact that this community continues to feel, I would be keen to bring the challenges to the attention of the Committee.

Yours sincerely

*Altaf*

Dr Altaf Hussain  
Shadow Minister for Equalities

#### WELSH PARLIAMENT

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

#### REGIONAL OFFICE

80 High Street, Gorseinon,  
Swansea SA4 4BL

#### SENEDD CYMRU

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd  
CF99 1SN

#### SWYDDFA RANBARTHOL

80 Stryd Fawr, Gorseinon,  
Abertawe SA4 4BL

t: 0300 200 7259

e: [altaf.hussain@senedd.wales](mailto:altaf.hussain@senedd.wales)

 [altafhussainsww](https://twitter.com/altafhussainsww)

Tudalen y perlyn 133



Ceidwadwyr  
Cymreig



Altaf Hussain AS

11 Awst 2021

Annwyl Altaf

**Eich cyfarfod ag RNIB Cymru**

Diolch yn fawr iawn am roi gwybod imi am eich trafodaeth ddiweddar gydag RNIB.

Mae'n frawychus bod 57 y cant o'r bobl sy'n aros am apwyntiad llygaid bellach yn cael eu hystyried fel rhai sydd mewn perygl o golli eu golwg yn sgil yr amser y maent wedi bod yn aros am driniaeth. Mae'n debyg mai'r Pwyllgor Iechyd fyddai'r Pwyllgor gorau i wneud gwaith dilynol ar y mater hwn. Mae hyn oherwydd bod y mater, i raddau helaeth, yn ymwneud ag effeithlonrwydd y broses brysbennu ar gyfer cleifion llygaid, i ba raddau y maent yn cael eu cyfeirio'n briodol at yr ystod lawn o glinigwyr llygaid, ac i ba raddau y mae delweddau TG sy'n cael eu creu gan optometryddion ar y stryd fawr yn cael eu defnyddio er mwyn tynnu sylw at y bobl y mae angen eu gweld ar frys. Felly, byddaf yn anfon copi o'ch llythyr at Russell George, sef Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Iechyd.

Mae'r holl faterion eraill yn faterion cydraddoldeb pwysig y gallwn eu trafod yn ystod ein cyfarfod strategaeth nesaf ym mis Medi.

Yn gywir,



Jenny Rathbone AS  
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

Copi at: Russell George AS, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Iechyd a Gofal Cymdeithasol

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.  
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.





Jenny Rathbone MS,  
Chair,  
Equality and Social Justice Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

1 September 2021

Dear Ms Rathbone,

Many congratulations on your appointment as chair of the new Equality and Social Justice Committee. I am writing as Head of Wales Office for the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. I appreciate the wide-ranging remit of the committee and the many calls on the committee's time but wanted to take an early opportunity to raise the possibility of a short inquiry into the speech, language and communication needs of young people in the youth justice estate. As the facts below highlight, this is a significant issue which could benefit from a timely, focused review.

**Key facts**

- Up to **60%** of young people in the youth justice estate have speech, language & communication needs (Bryan et al, 2007).
- **66%-90%** of young offenders have low language skills. 46-67% of these are in the poor or very poor range (Bryan et al, 2007).
- Around **40%** of young offenders find it difficult or are unable to access and benefit from rehabilitation programmes that are delivered verbally, such as drug rehabilitation courses (Bryan et al, 2004).

To our knowledge, this issue was last reviewed by the Senedd over ten years ago when the then Communities and Culture Committee report 'Youth justice: the experience of Welsh children in the secure estate' (2010) highlighted a lack of provision in Wales for young and adult offenders who have speech language and communication needs and recommended the Welsh Government enable pilot work to be done in Wales on the potential benefits of speech and language therapy for juvenile offenders both in custody and on release. Despite evidence from the pilots, provision remains extremely patchy over a decade later. This was briefly touched upon by the recent Health Committee inquiry on the provision of health and social care in the adult prison estate in Wales in which the governor of HMP Parc acknowledged that there was unmet need for speech and language therapy among the prison population.

We believe a potential short inquiry by the committee could be extremely helpful in shining a light on this key area and would be happy to provide further information to the committee should you wish to explore this possibility further. We have also raised this topic with the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee but understand that the Equality and Social Justice Committee may be better placed to consider this request.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



**Pippa Cotterill,**

**Head of Wales Office**

Jane Hutt AS

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

20 Awst 2021

Annwyl Jane,

Rydym yn rhannu eich pryder am y sefyllfa sy'n datblygu yn Afghanistan. Rydym yn cytuno bod yn rhaid i Gymru chwarae ei rhan yn yr ymateb dyngarol yn enwedig o ran cefnogi ffoaduriaid o Afghanistan.

Byddem yn croesawu pe gallech ar y cyfle cynharaf wneud datganiad ar y cymorth a ddarperir gan Lywodraeth Cymru i ffoaduriaid o Afghanistan. Mae gennym nifer o gwestiynau penodol:

- Faint o ffoaduriaid o Afghanistan yr ydych chi'n rhagweld y rhoddir noddfa iddynt yng Nghymru, ac a oes llinell amser ar gyfer eu hailsefydlu?
- Pa asesiad y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i wneud o ddigonolrwydd y trefniadau llety ar gyfer ffoaduriaid sy'n cyrraedd y DU, yn enwedig yng ngoleuni marwolaeth drasig plentyn o Afghanistan yn Sheffield yn gynharach yr wythnos hon?
- A yw Llywodraeth Cymru wedi sicrhau'r cyllid ychwanegol sydd ei angen gan Lywodraeth y DU, fel y disgrifir [yn eich sylwadau i'r BBC?](#)
- Pa drefniadau sy'n cael eu gwneud ar gyfer yr uwchgynhadledd rhwng pedair gwlad y DU, [a gadarnhawyd gan Brif Weinidog y DU](#) i Senedd y DU ar 18 Awst?
- Faint o awdurdodau lleol Cymru sydd wedi cynnig eu cefnogaeth, ac a allwch chi roi manylion am y mathau o gefnogaeth sydd wedi'u cynnig gan bob awdurdod lleol?
- Sut mae cynlluniau i gefnogi ffoaduriaid o Afghanistan yn cymharu â'r gefnogaeth a gynigiwyd i ffoaduriaid o Syria yn 2015?
- Beth yw barn Llywodraeth Cymru ar y meini prawf o ran cymhwysedd ar gyfer blaenoriaethu cefnogaeth i ffoaduriaid o Afghanistan, ac a ydych chi'n cefnogi safbwynt Llywodraeth y DU i roi blaenoriaeth i fenywod a merched?

Byddem yn ddiolchgar o gael ymateb i'n llythyr cyn gynted ag y bo modd. Mae'r Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol hefyd yn debygol o archwilio'r materion hyn gyda chi ymhellach yn ein sesiwn graffu arfaethedig ar eich gwaith ar 20 Medi.

Yn gywir,

**Jenny Rathbone AS**Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb a  
Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol**Delyth Jewell AS**Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant,  
Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a  
Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol





Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/10435/21

Jenny Rathbone AS a Delyth Jewell AS  
Cadeiryddion  
Senedd Cymru

[Government.Committee.Business@llyw.cymru](mailto:Government.Committee.Business@llyw.cymru)

10 Medi 2021

Annwyl Jenny & Delyth,

Diolch am eich llythyr dyddiedig 20 Awst, ar ran y ddau bwyllgor Senedd, ynghylch yr argyfwng dyngarol yn Affganistan a'r gefnogaeth sy'n cael ei darparu gan Lywodraeth Cymru i'r ffoaduriaid.

Ar 26 Awst, cyhoeddais Ddatganiad Ysgrifenedig yn nodi'r hyn yr oeddem yn ei wybod a beth oedd ein camau nesaf o ran cefnogi'r rhai a achubir o Affganistan. Gallwch ddarllen mwy yn y ddolen isod;

[Datganiad Ysgrifenedig: Ymateb penodol Cymru i'r sefyllfa yn Affganistan \(26 Awst 2021\) | LLYW.CYMRU](#)

Rwyf hefyd yn bwriadu annerch y Senedd yr wythnos nesaf i roi diweddariad pellach ar ein gwaith hyd yma. Mae Cymru yn Genedl Noddfa a rhaid inni wneud popeth sy'n bosibl i sicrhau bod cyfieithwyr Affganistan, ffoaduriaid a'u teuluoedd yn cael croeso cynnes ac yn gallu integreiddio'n effeithiol yn ein cymunedau.

Rydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda Swyddfa Gartref Llywodraeth y DU, awdurdodau lleol Cymru ac eraill i sicrhau bod digon o lety a bod y cymorth integreiddio priodol yn cael ei roi ar waith. Bythefnos yn ôl, cyfarfu Prif Weinidog Cymru a minnau, a buom yn gwrandao ar randdeiliaid allweddol ledled Cymru, gan gynnwys cynrychiolwyr y gymuned Affgan, er mwyn ystyried sut y gallwn gydweithio i ddarparu'r cymorth gorau posibl i'r rhai sy'n ffoi o Affganistan. Bydd y gwaith hwn yn parhau dros yr wythnosau nesaf.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales)

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

**Tudalen y pecyn 138**  
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

## **Faint o ffoaduriaid Affganistan rydych chi'n rhagweld y byddant yn cael noddfa yng Nghymru ac a oes amserlen ar gyfer eu hadsefydlu?**

Mae'n bwysig nodi bod dau gynllun yn cael eu datblygu sydd â meini prawf cymhwysedd gwahanol. Mae Polisi Adleoli a Chynorthwyo Affganïaïd (ARAP) yn darparu llety a chymorth i'r rhai a weithiodd yn uniongyrchol ochr yn ochr â Lluoedd Arfog Prydain yn Affganistan. Yn annibynnol ar hynny, mae Llywodraeth y DU wedi cyhoeddi Cynllun i Adsefydlu Dinasyddion Affganistan (ACRS), ond nid yw union hyd a lled y cynllun hwn wedi'i ddiffinio eto. Dim ond y Polisi Adleoli a Chynorthwyo Affganïaïd sydd ar waith ar hyn o bryd ac, er y gellid dweud bod y teuluoedd sy'n cyrraedd yn ofni, yn rhesymol felly, y byddent wedi cael eu herlid pe baent wedi aros mewn Affganistan a reolir gan y Taliban (diffiniad y Cenhedloedd Unedig o ffoadur), nid yw Llywodraeth y DU yn rhoi 'statws ffoadur' i'r bobl hyn.

Rydym ar ddeall bod tua 8,000 o bobl wedi cyrraedd y DU sy'n gymwys o dan Bolisi Adleoli a Chynorthwyo Affganïaïd, ac mae Llywodraeth y DU hefyd wedi cyhoeddi y bydd 5,000 o bobl y flwyddyn yn cael cymorth o dan y Cynllun i Adsefydlu Dinasyddion Affganistan. Rydym am i Gymru chwarae rhan lawn yn y ddau gynllun hyn, ac mae pob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru wedi addo rhoi cymorth. Fel yn achos y rhan fwyaf o brosiectau lleoli ceiswyr lloches ac adsefydlu ffoaduriaid, bydd Cymru yn ceisio ymgorffori ein hymrwymiad i fod yn Genedl Noddfa drwy o leiaf gadw at ein targed ar sail ein canran o'r boblogaeth o'r DU, sef 4.7%, ac os yw'n bosibl, rhagori ar hynny. Mae hyn yn golygu o leiaf 611 o unigolion o fewn 12 mis cyntaf y cynlluniau. Ar hyn o bryd, nid yw'n bosibl rhoi ffigurau manylach o ran faint rydym yn bwriadu eu hadsefydlu fel cenedl.

Mae'n bwysig nodi bod holl awdurdodau lleol Cymru wedi cefnogi teuluoedd o dan y cynllun i adsefydlu pobl o Syria a oedd yn agored i niwed, ac mae ein hardaloedd lleoli ceiswyr lloches wedi bod ymhlith y rheini sydd wedi cefnogi'r nifer uchaf o geiswyr lloches y pen ers blynyddoedd lawer. Mae Cymru wedi ymrwymo i'w gweledigaeth i fod yn Genedl Noddfa, a dim ond diffyg safleoedd digonol fydd yn cyfyngu arnom yn hyn o beth.

Mae'r gwaith adsefydlu eisoes wedi dechrau yng Nghymru, a bydd y gwaith cychwynnol i adleoli teuluoedd sy'n gymwys o dan Bolisi Adleoli a Chynorthwyo Affganïaïd yn parhau drwy gydol mis Medi. Bydd yr amserlen ar gyfer adsefydlu carfan y Cynllun i Adsefydlu Dinasyddion Affganistan yn dibynnu ar benderfyniadau Llywodraeth y DU o ran pryd i roi'r cynllun ar waith.

## **Pa asesiad y mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi'i wneud o ddigonolrwydd y trefniadau llety ar gyfer ffoaduriaid sy'n cyrraedd y DU, yn enwedig yng ngoleuni marwolaeth drasig plentyn o Affganistan yn Sheffield ym mis Awst?**

Fe wnaeth marwolaeth drasig Mahammed Munib Majeedi, 5 oed, ar 18 Awst ein sobri a'n hatgoffa o'r angen i wneud yn siwr bod trefniadau llety dros dro yn cael eu hystyried yn ofalus a bod y risgiau mor isel â phosibl. Rydym wedi gweithio'n agos gyda'n holl bartneriaid dros yr wythnosau diwethaf i geisio sicrhau safonau llety a fydd yn darparu cymorth dros dro o ansawdd da i deuluoedd. Ar 16 Awst, ysgrifennais at Ysgrifennydd Gwladol y DU dros Gymunedau, Tai a Llywodraeth Leol i egluro y byddai angen cydsyniad Gweinidogion Cymru a'r awdurdod lleol perthnasol er mwyn defnyddio gwestai yng Nghymru. Yn anffodus, rydym yn ymwybodol bod un gwesty wedi'i gaffael yng Nghymru heb geisio cydsyniad y naill na'r llall. Rydym yn gweithio'n gyflym i asesu digonolrwydd y trefniadau cymorth yn y lleoliad hwn, ac yn gweithio gyda phartneriaid i roi'r cymorth sydd ei angen ar waith.

## **A yw Llywodraeth Cymru yn siwr ei bod am gael yr arian ychwanegol sydd ei angen gan Lywodraeth y DU, fel y soniwyd yn eich sylwadau i'r BBC?**

Rydym wedi ysgrifennu at Lywodraeth y DU i addo helpu mewn unrhyw ffordd y gallwn ac i geisio eglurder ar frys ar nifer o faterion pwysig, o gyllid canlyniadol posibl ar gyfer iechyd ac addysg, i drefniadau cynllunio llety wrth gefn, i hyd a lled y cynllun newydd i adsefydlu dinasyddion Affganistan a'r cymorth a ddarperir. Rwyf hefyd wedi codi'r materion hyn yn uniongyrchol gyda Gweinidogion Llywodraeth y DU yng nghyfarfodydd diweddar y Pedair Gwlad, ond nid ydym eto wedi cael ymatebion boddhaol i'n hymholiadau. Ar 6 Medi, ymrwymodd Prif Weinidog y DU yn Nhŷ'r Cyffredin i ysgrifennu at y Gweinyddiaethau Datganoledig yn nodi manylion y cyllid a fydd ar gael yng Nghymru, ac rydym yn aros am y llythyr hwnnw.

### **Pa drefniadau sy'n cael eu gwneud ar gyfer uwchgynhadledd pedair gwlad y DU, a gadarnhawyd gan Brif Weinidog y DU i Senedd y DU ar 18 Awst?**

Ar 27 Awst, es i gyfarfod y Pedair Gwlad, dan gadeiryddiaeth Canghellor Dugiaeth Caerhirfryn, Michael Gove AS. Codais y pryderon a fynegwyd gan aelodau o gymuned Affganiaid Cymru am yr ymdrechion i achub pobl o Affganistan a'r pryderon am ddiogelwch eu teuluoedd, pwysais am i swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru gael bod yn rhan o'r gwaith o lunio cynlluniau newydd, a gofynnais am eglurder ar frys ar nifer o faterion.

Cynhaliwyd ail gyfarfod o'r Pedair Gwlad ar 6 Medi gyda Gweinidog Adsefydlu Affganiaid newydd y DU, Victoria Atkins AS, i roi gwybodaeth am ddatblygiadau diweddar. Ymrwymwyd i ymgysylltiad pellach â'r Gweinyddiaethau Datganoledig, ond nid yw ein swyddogion wedi bod yn rhan go iawn o'r gwaith o lunio'r cynlluniau hyn eto. Nodwn hefyd fod Prif Weinidog y DU wedi ymrwymo i gyfarfod â chynrychiolwyr Llywodraeth Cymru yn ystod ei ddatganiad i Senedd y DU ar 6 Medi.

### **Faint o awdurdodau lleol yng Nghymru sydd wedi cynnig cymorth, ac a allwch roi manylion am y mathau o gymorth a gynigir gan bob awdurdod lleol?**

Mae pob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru wedi addo cefnogi'r cynlluniau hyn, ac mae gwaith ar y gweill i sicrhau bod yr addewidion yn troi'n gynigion cadarn o ran safleoedd cyn gynted ag y bo'n ymarferol. Mae tua hanner ein hawdurdodau lleol eisoes wedi croesawu o leiaf un teulu o Affganistan o dan y cynlluniau hyn, a byddant yn gweithio'n ofalus i sefydlu'r pecyn cymorth ehangach sydd ei angen – fel y maent wedi'i wneud cystal o dan y cynllun i adsefydlu pobl o Syria a oedd yn agored i niwed. Mae'n werth nodi hefyd y bydd ein hardaloedd lleoli ceiswyr lloches hefyd yn cefnogi llawer mwy o Affganiaid yn eu hardaloedd, ac maent wedi gwneud hynny'n gyson drwy gydol y gwrthdaro yn Affganistan.

Mae'n destun balchder mawr bod pob awdurdod lleol yng Nghymru wedi ymrwymo i gefnogi gwladolion Affganistan. Mae gan Gymru draddodiad hir o gefnogi'r rhai sy'n ceisio noddfa, a byddwn yn parhau â'r traddodiad hwnnw o dan y cynlluniau newydd hyn.

### **Sut mae cynlluniau i gefnogi ffoaduriaid Affganistan yn cymharu â'r cymorth a gynigiwyd i ffoaduriaid o Syria yn 2015?**

Nid ydym eto wedi derbyn unrhyw fanylion pendant gan Lywodraeth y DU ynghylch sut y bydd y Cynllun i Adsefydlu Dinasyddion Affganistan yn gweithio. Rydym wedi pwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU i ddilyn yr un trefniadau ag yn achos y cynllun i adsefydlu pobl o Syria a oedd yn agored i niwed, i bob pwrpas, o ran lefel ariannu a dull gweithredu.

Rydym hefyd wedi gofyn i Lywodraeth y DU ystyried y Cynllun i Adsefydlu Dinasyddion Affganistan yn rhan o Gynllun Adsefydlu'r DU (a elwir hefyd yn Rhaglen Adsefydlu Bydeang) yr oedd awdurdodau lleol Cymru eisoes wedi ymrwymo i'w gefnogi. Bwriad Cynllun Adsefydlu'r DU oedd darparu cynllun mwy generig ac ymatebol i sicrhau bod modd cynnig llwybr diogel a chyfreithiol uniongyrchol i noddfa i ddiodefswyr argyfwng mewn unrhyw ran Tudalen y pecyn 140

o'r byd. Gallai sefydlu cynllun arall eto olygu bod yn rhaid i awdurdodau lleol lywio prosesau democrataidd o'r newydd cyn y gellir cynnig lleoliadau.

**Beth yw barn Llywodraeth Cymru ar y meini prawf cymhwysedd ar gyfer cymorth blaenoriaethol i ffoaduriaid Affganistan ac a ydych yn cefnogi safbwynt Llywodraeth y DU i roi blaenoriaeth i fenywod a merched?**

Rwyf eisoes wedi pwysu ar Lywodraeth y DU i sicrhau bod y cynllun sydd newydd ei gyhoeddi i adsefydlu dinasyddion Affganistan yn rhoi ystyriaeth arbennig i ba mor agored i niwed yw menywod, plant (gan gynnwys bechgyn), unigolion LHDTC+, lleiafrifoedd crefyddol ac ethnig (gan gynnwys pobl Hazara), a'r rhai sydd ag aelodau o'r teulu sydd eisoes yn byw yn y DU. Yn anochel, o ystyried cwmpas y Cynllun (yn helpu 5,000 o bobl y flwyddyn) a nifer y rhai sydd efallai yn ofni erledigaeth gan y Taliban, mae'n debygol y bydd angen meini prawf cymhwysedd llai pendant i sicrhau y gellir cefnogi'r rhai sydd yn y perygl mwyaf. Rydym am i Lywodraeth y DU ymgysylltu â ni ynghylch hyn, a cheisio hefyd gyngor a chefnogaeth Uchel Gomisinydd y Cenhedloedd Unedig dros Ffoaduriaid.

Yn gywir,



**Jane Hutt AS**

Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol

# Eitem 8

Yn rhinwedd paragraff(au) vi o Reol Sefydlog 17.42

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon