

Agenda – Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau

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| Lleoliad: | I gael rhagor o wybodaeth cysylltwch a: |
| Video Conference via Zoom | Naomi Stocks |
| Dyddiad: Dydd Mawrth, 16 Mehefin 2020 | Clerc y Pwyllgor 0300 200 6565 |
| Amser: 13.30 | SeneddCymunedau@senedd.cymru |

Rhag-gyfarfod anffurfiol

(13.30–14.00)

Yn unol â Rheol Sefydlog 34.19, mae'r Cadeirydd wedi penderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o gyfarfod y Pwyllgor er mwyn diogelu iechyd y cyhoedd. Caiff y cyfarfod hwn ei ddarlledu'n fyw ar www.senedd.tv

1 Cyflwyniad, ymddiheuriadau, dirprwyon a datgan buddiannau
(14.00)

2 Ymchwiliad i COVID-19 a'i effaith: sesiwn dystiolaeth ar gydraddoldeb a hawliau dynol

(14.00–14.45)

(Tudalennau 1 – 11)

Ruth Coombs, Pennaeth y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol yng Nghymru

Hannah Wharf, Pennaeth Materion Allanol, y Comisiwn Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol yng Nghymru

Egwyl

(14.45–15.00)

3 Ymchwiliad i COVID-19 a'i effaith: sesiwn dystiolaeth ar bobl hŷn
(15.00–16.00)

Heléna Herklots, Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru

Victoria Lloyd, Prif Weithredwr, Age Cymru



- 4 Cynnig o dan Reol Sefydlog 17.42 (xi) i benderfynu gwahardd y cyhoedd o'r cyfarfod heddiw yn ystod eitem 5 ac eitem 8**
(16.00)
- 5 Effaith COVID-19 ar bobl hŷn – trafod y dystiolaeth**
(16.00–16.15)
- 6 Ymchwiliad i COVID-19 a'i effaith: sesiwn dystiolaeth ar grwpiau pobl dduon, Asiaidd a lleiafrifoedd ethnig**
(16.15–17.00) (Tudalennau 12 – 34)
Patience Bentu, Swyddog Cymorth Gweinyddiaeth a Pholisïau, Race Council Cymru
Rocio Cifuentes, Prif Weithredwr, Tîm Cymorth Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig ac Ieuenctid Cymru (EYST)
Ginger Wiegand, Ymchwil a Pholisïau, Rhaglen Ymgysylltu BAME Cymru Gyfan, Tîm Cymorth Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig ac Ieuenctid Cymru (EYST)
- 7 Papurau i'w nodi**
(17.00–17.05) (Tudalen 35)
- 7.1 Gohebiaeth gan Jane Hutt AS, Dirprwy Weinidog a Phrif Chwip at Priti Patel AS, Ysgrifennydd Gwladol yr Adran Gartref ynghylch COVID-19 a'i effaith ar Gymunedau BAME – 12 Mai 2020**
(Tudalennau 36 – 37)
- 7.2 Gohebiaeth gan Chris Philp AS, Is-Ysgrifennydd Gwladol Seneddol yn y Swyddfa Gartref a'r Weinyddiaeth Gyfiawnder ynghylch Deddf Rhentu Cartrefi (Cymru) 2016 – 29 Mai 2020**
(Tudalennau 38 – 39)
- 7.3 Gohebiaeth gan Llyr Gruffydd AS, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid ynghylch ymgysylltu a'r ddadl yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar Flaenoriaethau Gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 2021–22 – 1 Mehefin 2020.**
(Tudalennau 40 – 41)

7.4 Gohebiaeth gan Nick Ramsay AS, Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus, at Adrian Crompton, Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru a Sophie Howe, Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol ynglŷn ag adroddiadau statudol Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – 29 May 2020

(Tudalennau 42 – 44)

7.5 Gohebiaeth gan y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol ynghylch cyfarfod y pwyllgor ar 15 Mai 2020 – 10 Mehefin 2020

(Tudalennau 45 – 49)

**8 Ymchwiliad i COVID-19 a'i effaith: trafod y dystiolaeth ymhellach
(17.05–17:15)**

Mae cyfyngiadau ar y ddogfen hon



12th May 2020

The Equality, Local Governments and Communities Committee
Senedd Cymru

Dear Committee members,

Re enquiry into the Covid-19 outbreak in Wales

In response to the call for submissions on the Covid-19 pandemic in Wales, we write this report to highlight the challenges and disproportionate effects of Covid19 on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities across Wales.

Who We Are

Race Council Cymru (RCC) was established in 2010 and acts as an umbrella organisation supporting and representing approximately 252 BAME organisations across Wales to strategically challenge racial inequality, prejudice and discrimination.

Our projects and groups are all based within grassroots communities where we facilitate and support five Ethnic Minority HUBS across Wales (Newport, Cardiff & Vale, Swansea, Carmarthenshire and North Wales), supporting over 177 different Ethnic Minority Organisations; and we facilitate and support 3 Windrush Cymru Elder groups in Cardiff, Newport and Wrexham which support over 120 BAME elderly people.

RCC delivers a number of projects that include; Windrush Heritage, Black History Wales, BAME Cultural & Digital HUBS, Race Hate prevention, Community Champions scheme, Crossing Borders Music & Heritage (working with young ethnic minority musicians and dancers), Youth Parliament and a National BAME Youth Forum which provides a national network of young BAME individuals throughout Wales enabling their voice to be heard on key agenda items at a local, regional and national level.

In all our work we ensure our projects, activities and events are linked to Welsh Government and public sector organisations ensuring they are shaped and aligned to provide strategic delivery that meets the local needs across Wales.

OVERVIEW

In the period of the Covid-19 lockdown, RCC has organised and held regular meetings and consultations with our HUB members and grassroots BAME communities and organisations across Wales. We have continued to convey feedback to the Welsh Government as well as Public Health Wales on the effects and challenges of Covid-19 and the lockdown on BAME people living in Wales. Through research, media reports, consultations with our grassroots community partners and feedback, RCC supports the findings that the Covid-19 pandemic and the lockdown has had a disproportionate effect on BAME people living and working in Wales. Pre-existing racial inequalities have played a major role in exacerbating the risks that ethnic minorities have been exposed to during the period of this pandemic. Significant socio-economic factors have led to the increased health risks, economic and social challenges of this pandemic on BAME communities. It is vital that this committee interrogates the characteristic components of the demographics of this group. We are convinced that this approach will provide an accurate picture of the unequal socio-economic susceptibilities which have resulted in the disproportionate effects of Covid-19 on this group of people in Wales.

The consultations conducted by our organisation reveal responses from our grassroots communities and presents them in sub-themes to provide information and outlines the risk factors involved in the effects of Covid-19 and the associated lockdown. Our findings are by no means encompassing of all the effects and risk factors; rather it draws upon the more popular themes and repeated responses that came from our broad consultations. We are convinced that beyond the boundaries of these findings, there are several individual and collective challenges that can be drawn over time and with further consultation.

BAME Frontline Workers Deaths

We are aware that the workforce of the NHS in Wales is made up of a considerable number of BAME workers, both in the medical and non-medical units (plus agency staff in both areas). We do not doubt the fact that one of the biggest challenges for frontline workers has been the lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Although we acknowledge that this challenge

pervades every aspect of frontline work, there are reports of its specific effects on BAME workers. In a response to the alarming number of health and frontline workers who have contracted and died of the virus in Wales, the Welsh government has set up an Advisory Committee, thereby launching an inquiry into the factors that have led to this. Some of the specific effects that have been noted through our network engagements include:

- BAME frontline workers working longer hours, more unsociable shifts, nights and weekends
- BAME frontline workers at higher risk from the virus due to certain underlying conditions prevalent in this category of people, such as Diabetes Type 2, Cardiovascular conditions, sickle cell etc. This is further outlined in the next sub-heading.
- Work placements where BAME workers are sent to high risk units where it is ascertained there is a shortage of, or no PPE. This has been reported to have connotations of racial discrimination in the personal experiences of the some BAME workers.

Underlying Health Conditions

The underlying conditions which have been discussed above amongst frontline workers, cascades through the general population of BAME people both in Wales and the rest of the country. Some of the suspected health conditions that potentially place BAME people at risk include:

- Obesity, which 73% of the nation's black population battle with, at 10% higher than the white population and 15% higher than the Asian population.
- Diabetes - Findings indicate that Black and South Asian ethnicities have a higher risk of diabetes. In elderly people, Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Black Caribbean people are more likely to report these conditions, which place them at risk of Covid-19, than their white counterparts in that age bracket (IFS, 2020). These conditions are currently being carefully studied to determine the extent of effects on BAME people and their exposure to Covid-19.
- Vitamin D deficiency - highlighted with frontline workers, this is another area of risk for BAME people that is undergoing further research. The hypothesis is that where there is a lower absorption of Vitamin D from sunlight on darker skin, the vitamin D deficiency leads to immunity being reduced.

Education

Predictive Scoring

- Access to Laptops and/or WIFI

The closure of schools has resulted in children accessing their school work and educational resources online at home. There are many BAME pupils who are either children of refugees and asylum seekers, people on benefits, people in low income jobs and other with 'No Recourse to Public Funds' (NRPF) categories. What this means is that these children have either no laptops/computers, no access to WIFI or both in most cases. Additionally, they are unable to access online resources through Council libraries, which are now shut in the current situation. This has caused untold difficulties for such families with their children, not being able to access and complete school work. Although the Minister for Education has announced increased funding to enable children access laptops with WIFI through their schools, and to asylum seekers via Local Authorities, the eligibility guidelines as to who qualifies for one is still unclear, and seems not to successfully be solving any of these problems.

- Predictive Scoring

This challenge is two-fold for ethnic minority families. On the one hand, BAME parents of children who do have had access to online resources, generally worry that racial discrimination will impact on their children's predictive scoring by schools. On the other hand, parents whose children have not been able to access online resources face a double jeopardy when it comes to predictive scoring – the lack of access and the fear of racial discrimination leading to an underestimation of grades. There has been a research report in support of the increase in the anxieties of most BAME families in Wales (Huffington Post, 2020).

Housing/Isolation

The household structures of BAME families is such that poses an infection risk to them in the transmission of Covid-19, as well as impacting on their mental health and wellbeing in a lockdown.

- Housing

Many families culturally live in large households with extended family members, such as parents, grandparents, in laws etc. This has made it very difficult for people with symptoms of Covid-19 to self-isolate or for the elderly members of the household to

shield as advised by government. This potentially puts such families at the risk of faster transmission of the virus.

- Asylum seeker/Refugee Accommodations

These are often overcrowded houses that have two separate families, who do not know each other, sharing a house; or rooms where unrelated individuals are sharing all facilities. This also does not provide any space for self-isolating or social distancing, and potentially puts such individuals at risk of faster transmission of the virus.

- Accommodation Layout

BAME families who live in houses or flats with no back gardens have struggled to keep their children indoors and have no easy access to safe outdoor spaces. This has had an effect on the mental wellbeing of both the parents and children.

- Social isolation

The feeling of being socially isolated has been very high amongst certain BAME groups of people who live alone and have no immediate family in the country. Amongst this group of people are International students in universities, who have felt isolated, are self-funding their University fees, have now lost their work and without knowing what help is available to them in an emergency, especially as they fall within the category of 'No Recourse to Public Funds'.

Faith Burials and Funerals/Costs

As cultures differ amongst BAME people, there are a range of funeral practices depending on faith and culture.

- Funerals/Burials

There were challenges at the early stages of the Covid-19 lockdown, when social distancing guidelines on funerals and burials was announced. BAME communities of various faiths and cultures were mostly affected as there were no considerations for their funeral and burial practices. For instance, there were no clear instructions for Sikh and Muslim funerals and burials. However, the result of several consultations between our community groups and the Welsh Government resulted in modifications being made in guidelines, with considerations for different faiths and cultural funeral and burial rites. These modifications are undergoing further clarity as consultations continue.

- Funeral Costs

The increase in Covid-19 deaths has exposed many BAME families to the reality of funeral costs. The fact that many BAME people are in low paying jobs or have no jobs at all, in the case of asylum seekers and refugees, this is a further struggle for them to give their loved ones a befitting funeral. In many cases within our communities, donations pots have been set up to cover costs. This has brought to light the reality of the disproportionate economic equality of BAME people.

Shopping and Food Access

- Shopping

The effects of the lockdown have made it difficult for vulnerable BAME people, such as those living with disabilities and the elderly, to access shopping. Although this has been a general problem, many BAME people required extra support because many lacked the knowledge and communication on where to access help.

- Food and Essentials

Many have also had to rely on foodbanks for food items and essential needs, such as toothpaste, shower gels etc and food parcel distributions organised by community groups because they cannot afford these any more. The challenge with the foodbanks is that many families are unable to access the cultural foods they are used to and end up having to settle for what they are forced to adapt to eating for survival. Often times, food parcels delivered end up being wasted as they do not meet cultural or religious requirements.

Hate Crime

- Covid-19 specific Hate Crime

Police reports have indicated that the level of hate crime has significantly reduced in the time of the lockdown. However, there have been pockets of incidents targeted particularly at the Chinese community, blaming them for causing the virus. Chinese business have had hate graffiti on the walls of their buildings.

- Online Hate Crime

Reports from our communities, point to a shift in hate crime methods to online attacks. This shift has made it difficult for Hate Crime and Community Cohesion Officers to respond effectively, as it is a new wave that will require training and support to deal with.

Businesses, Income and Earning

The fact that many BAME people are in low income jobs has been mentioned earlier. Family income and earnings have been affected by the lockdown, which in turn has placed more families at risk. Many ethnic minority people are on zero hour contracts and rely on additional cash (tips) to survive. Whilst some workers have been furloughed, many do not qualify, or are unaware of their rights and have language barriers that prevent access to clear information so they struggle from day to day with living expenses such as:

- **Rent payments**

Those who are renting privately struggle with keeping up payments of rents. Whilst the central government has provided guidelines to Landlords, there is growing anxiety amongst BAME people on what will happen if they are thrown out of their homes.

- **Bills**

Insufficient income and earning means apart from rent, bills such as electricity, gas, Council, water, Wi-Fi and so on, remain in arrears and at the risk of being suspended.

- **BAME small business owners have indicated their worry about the support provided to businesses by the Welsh government. This stems from the lingering racial discrimination that BAME people experience in every sector, where having an ethnic minority name seems to cause delay and denial of support in comparison to their white colleagues. Their preference with the funding application process is for absolute transparency and sharing of information on how BAME applications are treated.**

Language Barriers

Where English is not the first language, all vital information distributed in English and Welsh only and not translated in multiple languages, is not reaching our BAME communities. Although much of the standard instructions regarding personal safety and distancing were provided in as many languages as possible initially, there are regular updates which have not. This makes it difficult for BAME people to keep up with updates concerning the rulings and their personal safety.

Conclusion

These are by no means a sum total of all Covid-19 related challenges and risk factors affecting BAME people in Wales. Although the specified word count for this report hinders us from

going into details, we have highlighted briefly on the major risk factors and challenges. Our organisation, on behalf of all our grassroots BAME partners and groups, commend and appreciate the special effort of the Welsh Government. Specifically, we recognise the unrelenting determination of the Deputy First Minister and Chief Whip, Jane Hutt AM, in ensuring that all equality characteristics receive a fair response during this pandemic. We anticipate that as this unfortunate situation begins to relax, your committee will rely on this report to inform policies that will address the racial inequalities in all sectors, that have led to this disproportionate effects BAME people have suffered, culminating in their higher exposure to Covid-19. We have carefully outlined our findings from the communities and backed it up with references from some media publications as evidence of our submission.

REFERENCES

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**Ethnic Minorities
& Youth Support
Team Wales**

Tîm Cymorth
Lleiafrifoedd Ethnig
& Ieuenctid Cymru

All Wales BAME Engagement Programme Response to Equalities, Local Government & Communities Committee Inquiry Impact of COVID 19 Crisis in Wales

1: About EYST Wales

EYST Wales is an award-winning Wales wide charity established since 2005 which aims to support ethnic minority young people, families and individuals living in Wales and help them to contribute, participate and feel a valued part of Wales. It does this through a range of services targeted variously at ethnic minority young people, ethnic minority families, refugees and asylum seekers and also the wider public.

EYST Wales coordinates the All Wales BAME (Black Asian Minority Ethnic) Engagement Programme, a project funded by Welsh Government to gather views and experiences of BAME people living in Wales and improve the evidence base from which to positively influence public policies and services to better reflect the needs of BAME communities. This project is one of seven Welsh Government Equalities and Inclusion Grants.

During April 2020, the All Wales BAME Engagement Programme hosted weekly online topical fora on the impact of COVID 19 on BAME people and communities in Wales, a series attended by a collective 230 participants. These forums focussed on the following topics: general impact, impact on Muslim communities, impact on employment & businesses, impact on children/pupils and young people/students, food security and community cohesion/racism/hate crime. Following are key points from these fora as well as additional intelligence from EYST project work.

EYST request to give oral evidence for the Equalities, Local Government and Communities committee in relation to this enquiry.

1: Tackling Poverty

- Free School Meals – Initially, there was much confusion over free school meal provision. The updated guidance from the Education Minister was welcome though many would like the Minister to provide stronger messages for local authorities to opt for offering a mixed cash/voucher offer for free school meals. Currently 17/22 local authorities are offering cash provision or a cash/voucher option for FSM, but there are

still a few local authorities operating on parcel provision. The consensus from representatives in the EYST forums is that a mixed offer of cash or voucher options is the optimum.

- Food security for asylum seekers, new refugees and low-income families: These families will not have money to do bulk shopping if needed for self-isolation or to compete with other consumers who are panic buying. Likewise, low income people who were working in informal economy, particularly hospitality sector will not have had the opportunity to be furloughed and will have been made jobless and incomeless very quickly and at risk of destitution.
- Any provision of food parcels must consider, cultural, religious, and medical food needs. The best efforts to provide culturally and medically appropriate food seem to be accomplished by organising at the local level by community groups. Likewise, via food some banks. This seems to work best for people when there are solid networks and good communication between food initiatives at a local level. For instance, Cardiff, Newport, and Swansea all have networks of foodbanks and initiatives with leadership from organisations such as Food Cardiff and/or local councils. It has been repeatedly brought up that WG food parcels for people who are shielding do not consider religious or medical dietary needs. WG are aware of this problem, but as yet there seems to be no resolution.
- Universal credit claims have increased and the queues for processing are unprecedented with worries that the usually five week waiting period will turn into additional weeks. It is welcome that DAF rules have been relaxed, but there were questions in our forum if people could readily access DAF if they didn't have support to do so or had done so before, particularly for people with English as an additional language.
- The relaxation on restrictions to provide housing to people with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) is welcome. However, Welsh Government should give clear direction to local authorities on exactly what support beyond housing people with NRPF can access. Local authorities are all trying to work out separately what exactly is legal, and this is taking precious time whereby people need additional support for livelihood. Likewise, Welsh Government should provide definitive advice (not just a suggestion) for local authorities to provide NRPF families with FSM.
- There are serious concerns about what happens to NRPF families post-COVID. We were presented with some evidence that people subject to NRPF were not seeking assistance with local authorities because they are afraid of being unhoused at short notice. On another note, there have been many women able to escape from domestic violence and/or trafficking in this period as they now can receive refuge. What will happen to them and their children if they no longer qualify for that refuge? Welsh Government should use this opportunity to collect evidence relating to this relaxation on restriction for people subject to NRPF and influence Westminster to end NRPF for good.

- There are concerns about risk of destitution for people who were working off the books, have now been let go and will not have access to furlough pay. Predominantly concern for people working for restaurants. This can potentially have a knock-on impact of destitution for asylum seekers and new refugees.

3: EQUITY IN EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMY

- There are big concerns that BAME people will be disproportionately affected by unemployment and loss of business and that BAME employees and business owners (particularly new businesses) will face barriers and institutional discrimination in accessing COVID 19 related relief.
- Some are worried their applications will be rejected in the same way that employment applications are (based on “foreign” name).
- There is also concern about BAME people being able to access advice for COVID related relief and benefits. For instance, no one is aware of provision of advice in a language other than English. In one forum, it was noted that many Chinese small business owners, particularly in restaurant industry, are having a hard time accessing advice on COVID 19 related benefits and applying for universal credit due to language barriers. Business Wales does have a fund to provide translation on phone calls, but as of mid-April they were experiencing high volume of calls and having trouble keeping up.
- All public bodies, including Welsh Government and local authorities should make the process to apply for COVID 19 related benefits transparent. WE recommend that Welsh Government ensure robust ethnicity monitoring and reporting for all COVID related relief or benefits as part of its Public Sector Equality. Leadership in relation to COVID 19 related projects must give clear instruction that protected characteristics of beneficiaries must be collected.
- BAME people and migrants are over-represented in essential worker sectors such as health and social care, distribution, transport, food processing, food delivery, etc, particularly in precarious professions in the gig economy and low pay sectors. This is extremely troubling, given the clear evidence BAME people are vastly overrepresented in critical care COVID patients. There are additional concerns with employer practices in these essential, low sectors:
 - There is evidence that people classed as essential workers are being asked by their employers to work without PPE and that some employers are not following social distance guidelines.
 - There is evidence that some employers are classifying their workers as key workers even though that case may be shaky.
 - There are widespread concerns about EU people being demanded to work in unsafe conditions by their employers. A representative from one local

authority reported that they were aware of a lot of complaints regarding employer practices and safeguarding of EU nationals.

- There is evidence that people are being pressured by employers to work even though they feel the working environment is unsafe for them – or that the worker may make other persons in their household unsafe by bringing COVID 19 home from that working environment.
 - There are no guidelines which require employers to furlough workers who live with someone who has had a “shielding” letter.
 - Furloughing vs. Redundancy – There are also concerns about people losing jobs with the employer not taking the consideration of furlough as an option. There was early confusion among some employers about furlough and who qualifies and how it works. Likewise, there is a perception that some employers are taking advantage of the opportunity to cull staff numbers. Likewise, there are big concerns for furloughed workers who may not be paid until June, particularly if they work for micro-businesses or small businesses.
 - Provision of PPE: There was consensus that that provision of PPE is a big issue – to not just NHS workers but all key workers – including in factories, delivery, retail. We understand that Welsh Government has given clear directive that employers must provide appropriate PPE to key workers in Health and Social Care, but we have heard very recent stories of workers in those and many sectors, including EU migrant workers in factories not getting sufficient PPE. WG guidelines state that workers may petition to their line manager if they feel they are not getting sufficient PPE or phone a national number to report it. Workers in temporary, low paying or casual work are afraid to question their employers.
 - Racism and discrimination in the workplace: There are concerns that individual and institutional implicit bias is affecting treatment of BAME and migrant employees in the workplace. Workers in low paying and/or precarious positions such as agency workers or those on zero hours contracts are afraid to use the mechanisms in place to challenge, bias, discrimination, or racial harassment in their workplaces.
 - A clear point of contact with support in multiple languages to ethnic minority and migrant employees who feel they face discrimination or unfair treatment in the workplace could ensure that employment inequity is not exacerbated due to COVID 19.
 - WG must ensure proper risk assessments of key workers in ALL sectors and pay grades and have a robust monitoring system to ensure that employers are correctly assessing and minimising risk to all workers and including all risk factors in those assessments.
- Evidence, including that from the aftermath of the 2008 recession, shows that ethnic minority people experience higher unemployment rates during recessions are more likely to go jobless for a longer period. Efforts to rebuild the economy post-COVID 19 need to account for and take steps to remedy this inequality.

- Important to hold onto (and grow) the gains that emerge during this crisis
 - After lockdown finishes, what will be next steps?
 - There is current socio-political debate about work being properly recognised and rewarded in a range of historically low paying and low valued sectors which have large number of BAME workers.
 - The COVID 19 bill has presented an unprecedented increase in unemployment benefits. We should fight to keep these as standard employee benefits .
 - We should also argue to expand living standards generally – for all people working and non-working.

3: EQUITY IN EDUCATION

Digital Access to Educational Materials and Support

- Access to Digital Equipment and Broadband – We were pleased to see the financial commitment and clear direction from Education Minister Kirsty Williams that local authorities provide. Now it is imperative that schools locate and provide this equipment for all families who need it with deliberate speed. Many families have lost weeks of home schooling due to the time lapse in response to this issue. Third sector organisations and grassroots organisations may be of assistance in assuring that all families who need it are reached.
- Language can be a huge barrier. Accessing school hubs and other online set ups is extremely difficult for parents who don't speak English fluently. Likewise, there are concerns for EAL pupils where no one at home speaks English. There is much concern, and rightly so, about Welsh medium pupils living in homes with no Welsh speakers. The same concern should be there for EAL pupils.
- Suggested solution: Employ or re-deploy teachers and teaching assistants who speak relevant modern foreign languages to support parents who are not fluent in English as well as EAL pupils. This support can be over phone, what's app or online meeting site such as Skype or Zoom. It may also be useful in engaging/keeping employed teaching assistants who were on temporary contracts and possibly not furloughed when schools closed.
- There is likely an under-reporting of parents' concerns over lack of access to online learning as parents with language barriers or who are not confident in engaging schools may not know how to approach them or have confidence to do so. Some schools report that they have had requests for laptops from families but not from BAME pupils/families. Are BAME parents not going back to the schools to make these queries?
- BAME community groups can facilitate communication between parents and schools. BAME groups need to get the word to parents that they should be communicating with schools about any barriers to accessing educational materials. Likewise, BAME groups can facilitate that communication where

parents are not able to themselves. EYST are currently encouraging Third sector and grassroots groups to get messages to their networks that parents who have barriers to online learning, particularly digital exclusion should contact schools immediately.

- There were some concerns about differences in the quality of online learning provided by different schools, including concerns that this period of learning at home may exacerbate existing attainment gaps between certain groups of pupils – with pupils from already high performing schools in wealthy areas where parents and potentially schools have access to more resources compared to those of pupils from relatively low performing schools in deprived areas. Additional considerations such as EAL add extra dimensions to this problem. To note, recent Sutton Trust research shows that since schools closed, 30% of middle class pupils in England have had access to daily online live or recorded classes compared to 16% of working class students and that less than 50% of parents without an HE qualification felt confident supporting their child's learning¹.
- We understand that these are unprecedented times and we appreciate the heartfelt and concerted efforts by educators and the team in the Welsh Government education department to provide continuity of learning for children in Wales in these circumstances. We appreciate that the WG Education “Policy Statement on Continuity of Learning” pledges to “seek to ensure as far as possible that no learner is disadvantaged because of access to technology, where they live, their age, their special educational needs, the language of their school or home, or their demographic profile” and to centralise principles of inclusion are central to the delivery of the programme and the return to school. We eagerly await specific plans to develop staff, content and strategies to deliver those goals. As such, we would recommend that WG adopt some of the strategies recommended by Sutton Trust to flatten the curve between advantaged and disadvantaged learners, including ethnic minority learners, in this period (in addition to solutions already referenced above): train teachers to be enabled to deliver online content, stamp out the digital divide, give disadvantaged pupils access to online 1-1 or small group tuition, consider running ‘catch up’ classes for children who need it over the summer or when schools return.

**Discrepancies in definitions of ‘Key Workers’
Concerns about Access to Childcare/Schooling Coming Out of Lockdown**

- There were also concerns about how local authorities are defining key workers and whether families who qualify for key worker childcare are taking up that option. Are BAME families having their eligibility communicated to them and being made confident to consider the offer? Also, what will happen to low income parents if schools are still closed when their sector begins a return to workplace? Many jobs in sectors such as manufacturing and retail are low paid jobs and these

¹ <https://www.suttontrust.com/our-research/covid-19-and-social-mobility-impact-brief/>

parents may not be able to pay for childcare. Will the definition of eligibility to send children to school/childcare hubs change?

Cancellation of exams and potential bias in predicted grades and previous assessments

- Summer 2020 GCSE and A level exams have been cancelled and there is guidance that schools will assess individual learner grades and rank according to previous work and teacher estimates of their likely performance if Summer 2020 exams were taking place.
- Many young ethnic minority people, particularly young people of African descent, are extremely concerned about teachers' predicted grades. Numerous research studies show that teachers are more likely to underestimate the performance of students from low socio-economic backgrounds and from certain ethnic groups (especially Black and Gypsy, Roma, Traveller pupils) in comparison to pupil's actual exam performance. Some scholars connect this dynamic with lower representation of certain groups at more competitive universities and degree programmes.
- Several attendees at EYST's recent forums knew close family members or friends who had the experience of outperforming teachers' predicted grades on high stakes exams. One parent at our Children/Young People/Pupil forum shared her child's previous experience of passing with As, Bs and Cs, despite being predicted to fail at GCSEs. This same child is having the same experience of low predicted A level grades and the current situation is "very distressing."
- Pupils are concerned that they won't get the necessary grades to attend university or progress to the next steps in their education or employment pathways in the fall. For young people who have put everything into preparing for high stakes exams to gain university entrance – there is a huge mental health impact as, all of a sudden, they now feel gaining that entrance is beyond their control.
- There are concerns that some young people in Wales who do not get sufficient grades to enter university in fall may drop out of university pathways altogether rather than repeat a year. This phenomenon may impact an entire cohort of BAME young people, with a risk of rise in NEET young people from BAME backgrounds in coming years.
- EYST is responding the Qualifications Wales (QW) consultation on assessment proposals for Summer 2020 with the following suggestions for revision of their proposals:
 - QW must work with the Minister for Education to provide teachers with guidance and support on how to ensure more accurate assessments and ranking of students in order to reduce inconsistencies across groups of pupils in schools and across schools;

- QW must work with the Minister for Education to provide schools with guidance and support to undertake equality impact assessments before and after final exam grade assessments as part of their Public Sector Equality Duty;
 - Remind schools of their Public Sector Equality Duty;
 - WJEC must use anonymised and disaggregated data on protected characteristics, including SES and SEN from schools to undertake equality impact assessments and investigate discrepancies in outcomes both relating to assessments/ranks provided by schools and to final grades after WJEC's statistical standardisation modelling;
 - There must be an avenue of appeal for any individual student who feels they have been underestimated or feels they have experienced bias or discrimination in their assessment, no matter what the reason for that bias.
- In a multi-agency letter to the Education Minister, EYST did request that she provide guidance to schools do equality impact assessments on predicted grades. Her return letter, though very positive about responding to needs of digitally excluded students, was less specific about commitment to address potential teacher and institutional bias in the Summer 2020 assessment system.
 - Likewise, there is potential to challenge universities to adapt the way in which they make decisions to fill student places – to ensure that they meet established diversity targets within departments and to assess in alternative mechanisms for recruitment decisions including contextualised admissions criteria. Clear guidance from HEFCW can encourage progressive vision and leadership in universities.

4: HOUSING

- Social class plays a huge part in whether people have the privilege to socially distance or stay at home.
- BAME families are more likely to live in over-crowded houses and more likely to live in intergenerational houses which makes self-isolation more difficult and also makes shielding of elderly and vulnerable people more difficult.
- Overcrowding will impact young people as they are unable to sit down and do homework in a quiet space and may also be more likely to feel compelled to go outside for cramped space or lack of garden. This includes young people seeking asylum who live in shared accommodation.

- Disproportionate impact on Roma families living in crowded houses where in normal circumstances, adults would expect young people to be outside of the house in daytimes, but they are now required to stay indoors.

5: EQUITY IN HEALTH

- There is clear evidence of the disproportionate impact of COVID 19 on BAME people, including in infection rates, higher critical care rates and death rates. These disparities are extremely unacceptable with Black African people 4 times more and Pakistani 2 times more likely to die from COVID 19 than White British peers. There are likely many overlapping factors to this extremely concerning phenomenon including decades of institutional racism, socio-economic factors (which also relate to underlying health conditions), housing conditions, environmental justice (living in areas of high air pollution, etc.) and the over-representation of BAME people in key frontline sectors including health and social care. Most NHS COVID related deaths have been BAME people, many with high profile media coverage. Likewise, there has been much media coverage of families including one in Gwent where multiple members in the same family have died within days of each other. The fact that this disproportionate impact is happening is due to decades of structural inequality.
- Quote from EYST forum: “For years and years, people engaging in work in the racial equality sector have reported a combination of disadvantage and inequality for ethnic minority people and it is still happening.”
- BAME people are over-represented in NHS staff, including among low paying frontline tiers. BAME people are also over-represented in other essential/frontline sectors (such as cleaning, social care, transport, including low paying ones, which have been undervalued until now.)
- One forum attendee had many family members who are nurses or workers in social care, who feel they are unable to say “No” to situations they feel dangerous, such as situations in care home where they have no protective equipment. They are exposed to COVID 19 even though they are more vulnerable to getting virus.
- An UK wide enquiry into disproportionate impact of COVID 19 on BAME people is welcome, but there must be accessible, disaggregated data for Wales, so that where possible, researchers can investigate the dynamics of COVID 19 in Wales. There is wide-spread consensus on this point amongst attendees of EYST’s recent forums.
- There are concerns about key health messages and information about services being shared, particularly to vulnerable child patients with existing health conditions. Following is an example from volunteers with ‘Friends of Sickle Cell and Thalassaemia’: Members are already marginalised are not getting information from consultants

regarding their vulnerability. They haven't received any guidance/letters and are more disadvantaged if they have more regular hospital appointments and aren't aware of processes involved. She is frightened for her community at this time. "We are looking for ways to get them the information, but it shouldn't be on us. It really highlights how marginalised our communities are."

- Though guidance on COVID 19 health and safety is available in many languages. There is a lack of material on well being available in languages other than English and Welsh.
- Proposed solutions:
 - Ensure a speedy, robust and fair enquiry into disproportionate impact of COVID 19 on BAME people/communities in general and also on BAME key workers. Even though Wales will participate in an enquiry with England, disaggregated data for Wales must be accessible. Likewise, Welsh Government should argue for the replacement of Trevor Phillips who has recently been suspended from his party for Islamophobic comments.
 - As an urgent matter, ensure that keyworkers in **all** frontline sectors have sufficient access to both PPE and non-symptomatic COVID 19 testing for themselves and household members.
 - Also, in the phased easing of lockdown, ensure that a robust general community testing and contact tracing system is in place. Ideally have free tests for anyone who is unable to work from home. Any plans for community-based testing regimes must be equality impact assessed to ensure they don't exclude people with low wealth/income or protected characteristics and do, in fact, reach people who may be more at risk from COVID 19 complications.
 - Campaign for fair work commission principles, higher wages and better working conditions in those low paying frontline sectors where BAME people are over-represented, including in the NHS and Health and Social Care.
 - Encourage Welsh Government to highlight contributions of migrants and BAME people on COVID 19 frontline in its regular communications or as a specific campaign.

7: Racism and Hate Crime

- Indications that street-based hate crime has declined since lockdown orders may be masking other dynamics. There has been an increase in online hate, both noticed by participants in EYST's online forums and documented by Cardiff University's HateLab. Likewise, there is evidence from grassroots organisations of people experiencing increased abuse from neighbours. Victim Support notes that clients they are currently supporting are mainly experiencing neighbour related abuse, rendering them, "prisoners in own home," afraid to go in back gardens or on daily walks because they do not feel safe in their neighbourhood. People experiencing this are reluctant to

phone police either thinking the case is trivial or fear of escalating tension and reactions from neighbour.

- Many think that hate crime reporting is currently low because people are living in fear of uncertainty and reporting is last thing on their agenda, as they are struggling to survive. There is wide consensus of the importance of encouraging and supporting people to report hate crime, including using 101, online reporting and Third party reporting.
- There has been some stereotyping of Muslim communities, particularly in relation to Ramadan. Rumours are circulating in multiple platforms/spaces that COVID 19 will peak during Ramadan because Muslim community is gathering and socialising. Mis/disinformation spreads quickly now that people are spending more time than ever online. In some cases, wider community which is becoming aware disproportionate impact of COVID 19 on BAME people, especially in particular parts of Wales such as Newport, is engaging in victim blaming. On some occasions, questions are raised as to whether BAME and/or Muslim people are social distancing or aware of public messages. Those may be questions to be asked but can quickly become victim blaming. This is a worrying trend to be aware of.
- Children and Young People are spending more time than ever online. In a recent online forum, young people in Wrexham brought attention to the troubling spread of online racism. "Anti-black racism spreads fast online." Some of this material is hateful such as depictions of violence against people of African descent in Wuhan, China. Some are clips that stereotype and purport to make light of stereotypes. Many of the young people in the forum expressed discomfort and hurt from stereotyping clips. Tiktok was mentioned as a forum where this plays out and noted that Tiktok seems to provide little oversight of content and felt that reporting process was worthless. Young people need support to protect themselves from online bullying and racist incidents and to report and stand up to online racism and hate.

6: Human Rights Impact of Legislation

1. Many anxieties by the BAME community who are already living in a hostile environment. The new Coronavirus legislation is very draconian and worrying many people. They have seen the images of troops on streets in London. Heard about the government enforced self-isolation, which again could impact BAME communities disproportionately, given they already face systematic racism and structural discrimination. Need messaging on this.
2. Under the new legislation, there will be changes in the regulations around sectioning people under the Mental Health Act. BAME communities are already disproportionately impacted. If police are given special powers to remove the need for a mental health nurse and social workers to sign off, we will see a big leap in the number of BAME people being affected. There are many examples of police failure and for communities to now hear the police will have further powers to detain and enforce, will become hugely problematic. This needs careful

managing and messaging as people still remember when after 7/7 'Shoot to Kill' was brought in.

3. People are very fearful of being deported, including many Windrush generations and families. Likewise, dependents of work permit holders may be at risk of deportation. This includes dependents of NHS workers who die due to COVID 19.
4. Community members are concerned that the expansion of police powers in relation to lockdown may be used disproportionately on ethnic minority people, particularly young Black people. They correctly note that young ethnic minority men are far over-represented in stop and search incidents. And that ethnic minority people are more likely to live in crowded houses and or lack of garden space. Several experts at prominent racial equality organisations such as Runnymede Trust have written articles for mainstream news outlets noting this very real risk.
5. The Coronavirus Act has passed and has gone through The Assembly. We need to think about how we monitor the impact of the Act and the pandemic, particularly the impact on human rights and equalities. Essential to share information and and prepare for the 6-month review of the Act.
6. The EHRC have made the decision to tell public bodies in Wales that they do not need to publish their strategic equality plans or their annual report by April 2020. This will be reviewed in October 2020.
7. There was consensus at EYST forums and in a number of other networks that current Covid 19 disruption offers opportunity to demand Government to consider Wifi an essential household utility and ask for it to be provided not only to asylum seekers but also to other low-income and digitally households as a matter of a human right.

7: Recommendations & Solutions

Tackling Poverty & Equity in Employment & Economy

- Give stronger advice to local authorities to provide cash or voucher choice to families in receipt of FSM.
- Support locally organised food and culturally responsive food initiatives
- Argue for abolition of NRPF.
- Raise income floor level for key worker sectors which are currently low paid
- Ensure the equitable accessibility of COVID 19 related relief and benefits. Robustly monitor and report on the beneficiaries of that relief via protected characteristic, income and business size.
- Keep gains in benefits related to COVID 19 and also argue to expand standard of living for all people working and non-working. This may include consideration transformative changes in the way the social floor is maintained such as Universal basic income.
- Share positive stories such as BAME owned small businesses providing food to NHS workers and migrants and BAME employees who work in food processing, agricultural and distribution sectors making sure that the food supply chain is operational and that vulnerable people access food they need.
- Build on those stories to argue for better valuation of these livelihoods.

- WG must ensure proper risk assessments of key workers in ALL sectors and pay grades and have a robust monitoring system to ensure that employers are correctly assessing and minimising risk to all workers and including all risk factors in those assessments.

Equity in Education – Support for Learners

- With utmost speed, ensure that all children who need who need it have laptops and Wi-Fi.
- Employ or re-deploy teachers and teaching assistants who speak relevant modern foreign languages to support parents who are not fluent in English as well as EAL pupils.
- BAME community groups can facilitate connections and communication between parents and schools.
- Train teachers to be enabled to deliver online class sessions.
- Consider 1-1 or small group online sessions for disadvantaged pupils
- Consider “catch-up” classes for disadvantaged pupils over the summer or when schools return

Equity in Education – 2020 Grades and University Entrance

- Qualifications Wales (QW) must work with the Minister for Education to provide teachers with guidance and support on how to ensure more accurate assessments and ranking of students in order to reduce inconsistencies across groups of pupils in schools and across schools;
- QW must work with the Minister for Education to provide schools with guidance and support to undertake equality impact assessments before and after final exam grade assessments as part of their Public Sector Equality Duty;
- Remind schools of their Public Sector Equality Duty;
- WJEC must use anonymised and disaggregated data on protected characteristics, including SES and SEN from schools to undertake equality impact assessments and investigate discrepancies in outcomes both relating to assessments/ranks provided by schools and to final grades after WJEC’s statistical standardisation modelling;
- There must be an avenue of appeal for any individual student who feels they have been underestimated or feels they have experienced bias or discrimination in their assessment, no matter what the reason for that bias.
- HEFCW must give guidance for university recruitment practices to achieve widening access agendas and ensure recruitment and further support for under-represented groups.

Health:

- Ensure a speedy, robust and fair enquiry into disproportionate impact of COVID 19 on BAME people/communities in general and also on BAME key workers. Even though Wales will participate in an enquiry with England, disaggregated data for Wales must be accessible. Likewise, Welsh Government should argue for the

replacement of Trevor Phillips, recently suspended from Labour party for Islamophobia.

- Ensure that keyworkers in all frontline sectors have sufficient access to both PPE and non-symptomatic testing for themselves and household members.
- Ensure a robust general community testing and contact tracing system is in place with free tests available to workers who cannot practice social distance and people at heightened risk of contracting COVID 19.
- Campaign for fair work commission principles, higher wages and better working conditions in those low paying frontline sectors where BAME parents are over-represented.
- Encourage Welsh Government to highlight contributions of migrants and BAME people on COVID 19 frontline in its regular communications or as a specific campaign.
- Young people need support to protect themselves from online bullying and racist incidents and to report and stand up to online racism and hate.

Human Rights

- Challenge the Home Office hostile environment in relation to immigration. Petition that the Home Office end Windrush related deportations and do not deport dependent family members of work-permit holders who die from COVID 19.
- Robustly monitor the enforcement of the COVID 19 bill, particularly the use of expanded police powers. Monitor and report on the effect on ethnic minority people and communities.
- Require public bodies to collect and report on equalities related data in relation to COVID 19 relief efforts.
- Use this moment to reframe and expand upon human rights, such as expanding worker (and nonworker) right to standard of living, rights to basic utilities such as WiFi, right to just remuneration of work, right to safety at work.
- Use this moment as a possibility to reimagine how risk and reward could be more justly distributed amongst classes of people in society as a result of this crisis.

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau

16 Mehefin 2020 – tudalen flaen papurau i'w nodi

| Papur rhif: | Mater o dan sylw | Oddi wrth | Cam gweithredu |
|--------------------------|--|---|----------------|
| ELGC(5)-17-20 Papur 3 | COVID-19 – yr effaith ar gymunedau pobl dduon ac Asiaidd a lleiafrifoedd ethnig (BAME). | Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip | I'w nodi |
| ELGC(5)-17-20 Papur 4 | Deddf Rhentu Cartrefi (Cymru) 2016 | Chris Philp AS Is-ysgrifennydd Gwladol Seneddol | I'w nodi |
| ELGC(5)-17-20 Papur 5 | Y Pwyllgor Cyllid: Ymgysylltu a'r Ddadl yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar Flaenoriaethau Gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru ar gyfer 2021-22 | Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid | I'w nodi |
| ELGC(5)-17-20 Papur 6 | Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Adroddiadau Statudol | Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon | I'w nodi |
| ELGC(5)-17-20 Papur 7 | COVID 19 | Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Lleol | I'w nodi |

Eitem 7.1

Jane Hutt MS
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
The Home Office
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

12 May 2020

Dear Priti,

I am writing to share concerns of the Welsh Government in relation to the growing evidence that the COVID-19 infection is having a disproportionate impact on Black, Asian, Minority or Ethnic (BAME) communities.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has today published an analysis of deaths involving COVID-19 by ethnic group. This provisional analysis has shown that the risk of death involving the coronavirus (COVID-19) among some ethnic groups is significantly higher than those of White ethnicity.

Urgent investigation is required to better understand what factors might be influencing this emerging research. In particular, there is a need to quickly identify the data and evidence that will enable us to act in an informed way and do all that we can to minimise avoidable harm in vulnerable groups. I welcome the recent announcement that the UK Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) is launching a formal review into the disproportionately higher percentage of Covid-19 mortality among people from BAME backgrounds and the contribution of Public Health Wales to that wider UK analysis. I hope to see swift action and constructive advice as a result of this inquiry soon.

The First Minister and I have established an advisory group to support the Chief Medical Officer and Welsh Government in advising, guiding and assisting officials to gather as much data and evidence as possible to better understand the risks facing BAME individuals disproportionately affected by Covid-19 in Wales; both in terms of contraction and death. This group will work closely with other UK Administrations in the development of work and also with Public Health England.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

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

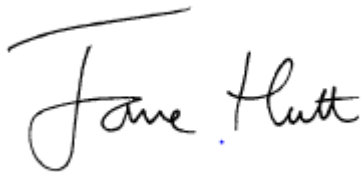
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

An area of concern to stakeholders is that data on ethnicity is not recorded on death certificates in England and Wales. Death certification and registration are non-devolved issues and are the responsibility of the Home Office through the General Register Office. Recognising there may be some challenges and many considerations to work through in doing so, will you consider revising the current process to include the opportunity to capture ethnicity on death certification and/or registration forms. The impending digitisation of the Medical Certificate of Confirmed Death (MCCD) might provide an opportunity to amend the MCCD and/or registration forms to introduce an ethnicity question, as is currently the case in Scotland. There may be other demographic factors which may be useful to include in the process, such as recording the country of birth, and we would be happy to explore this further with you.

The improvement to ethnicity data and evidence that this change could offer would enable us to act in an informed way and do all that we can to minimise avoidable harm in vulnerable groups. It will also efficiently target any actions required to address the problems of particular groups and areas

I look forward to receiving your response in relation to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Jane Hutt AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

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

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.

Tudalen y pecyn 37

John Griffiths AM
Chairman Equalities Local Government and Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Your ref: 200316
MoJ ref: ADR77982

29 May 2020

Dear John,

RENTING HOMES (WALES) ACT 2016

Thank you for your letter of 16 March 2020 sent on behalf of the Committee in which you have raised two points in respect of amendments to the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016. Please accept my apologies for the delay in replying and extend the same to your Committee.

You have written that the following points have arisen during your Committee's scrutiny:

What impact is commencement of the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016, and the proposed amendments to be made by the Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill likely to have on the courts in Wales?

Will the changes in any way impact upon the average time it takes for a landlord to recover possession of their property?

As you are aware the Renting Homes (Wales) Act 2016 and the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 were drafted with the aim of reforming housing law in Wales to provide clarity and certainty for renters and landlords alike, placing landlord and tenant law on a more contractual footing. So, for instance tenants will be known as contract holders occupying premises under an occupation contract. Additionally, the number of tenancy types was reduced to broadly two. Further changes include licensing and regulation of the industry and a reform of the law of possession. Standardised written contracts will also be introduced. All the while preserving role of the Courts to be the final arbiter of all disputes.

While most of the legislation has yet to be implemented, officials from the Welsh Government, HMCTS and MoJ Policy have been engaged in this work with an eye to implementation in 2021, to coincide with the end of the current assembly session. This work involves creating a set of procedural rules and changes to the online platform and court processes to reflect the new legislation.

The number of possession cases outright should fall. Firstly, with occupation contracts likely to be longer than the current six month assured shorthold tenancies, there will be fewer claims for possession at the end of a tenancy. Secondly, there will be a reduction in the number of possession claims from social landlords because of their not having to go to court in cases of possession linked to abandonment. Thirdly, Welsh Government housing policy under which social landlords will not evict tenants into homelessness will also have an effect. Given that possession claims from social landlords currently account for 84% of court hearings, we anticipate that the reduction in claims from social landlords will

free-up sufficient capacity within the courts system to accommodate any increase in claims under the breach of contract or rent arrears grounds from private landlords, without causing them undue delay or inconvenience.

Whilst the changes to the section 21 “accelerated possession route”, which are found at section 173 of the 2016 Act is likely to increase the length of time for those actions to progress, this will be offset by the 2016 Act’s other provisions. The use of section 21 “no fault” applications has expanded, both in the private rental sector and amongst social landlords. The 2016 Act should rebalance this trend so that fewer cases will be dealt with under the section 21 (s173) process, with more being dealt with under the various other provisions in the 2016 Act to which the Civil Procedure Rules have attached specific time frames.

I hope this addresses your points.



CHRIS PHILP MP

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd, Amgylchedd a Materion
Gwledig
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu
Cadeirydd Pwyllgor yr Economi, Seilwaith a Sgiliau
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Materion Allanol a Deddfwriaeth Ychwanegol
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Iechyd, Gofal Cymdeithasol a Chwaraeon

1 Mehefin 2000

Y Pwyllgor Cyllid: Ymgysylltu a Dadl yn y Cyfarfod Llawn ar flaenoriaethau gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru 2021-22

Annwyl Gadeiryddion y Pwyllgorau

Yn ein cyfarfod ar 21 Mai 2020, bu'r Pwyllgor Cyllid yn ystyried ei raglen ymgysylltu ar gyfer cyllideb ddrafft Llywodraeth Cymru sydd ar y gweill, ac rwy'n ysgrifennu at holl Gadeiryddion y pwyllgorau pwnc i rannu ein safbwyntiau.

Fel y byddwch yn gwerthfawrogi, yng nghyd-destun y cyfyngiadau cymdeithasol presennol oherwydd Covid-19, ni allwn gynnal digwyddiad rhanddeiliaid fel yr ydym wedi'i wneud yn y gorffennol. Mae hyn yn siomedig iawn am ei fod yn cynnig cyfle gwerthfawr i glywed gan ein rhanddeiliad allweddol am eu meysydd blaenoriaeth ar gyfer gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru cyn i'r gyllideb ddrafft gael ei llunio.

Yn hytrach, eleni byddwn yn ymgymryd â mentrau ar-lein gan ddefnyddio Twitter i annog rhanddeiliaid a'r cyhoedd i gyflwyno eu safbwyntiau ynglŷn â blaenoriaethau gwariant. Byddwn yn gwerthfawrogi eich cymorth i hyrwyddo ein cwestiynau/holiaduron ar-lein drwy eich dulliau cyfathrebu chithau er mwyn ennyn diddordeb cynulleidfaoedd ehangach ac ymgysylltu â hwy. Bydd hyn yn helpu'r Pwyllgor Cyllid i gyfrannu at gyflawni'r gwaith craffu mwyaf cydlynol ac effeithiol o gynlluniau gwariant y Llywodraeth yn ystod yr amgylchiadau digynsail hyn. Byddwn yn rhannu canlyniad y gwaith ymgysylltu hwn â'ch Pwyllgorau i'ch helpu gyda'r gwaith o graffu ar y gyllideb ddrafft.



Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

 SeneddCyllid@senedd.cymru

 0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

 SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

 0300 200 6565

Mae'r Pwyllgor Busnes wedi cytuno i drefnu dadl, a gynigiwyd gan y Pwyllgor Cyllid, yn ystod wythnos olaf tymor yr haf ynglŷn â blaenoriaethau gwariant Llywodraeth Cymru. Gobeithiwn y gellir defnyddio'r wybodaeth a gesglir drwy ein gwaith ymgysylltu ar-lein i lywio'r ddadl ac y bydd ei chynnal cyn toriad yr haf yn cynnig digon o amser i Lywodraeth Cymru ystyried safbwyntiau'r Senedd wrth lunio ei chyllideb ddrafft. Bydd Covid-19 yn cael effaith ar wariant cyhoeddus am flynyddoedd i ddod a chredwn fod cynnal y ddadl hon yn hanfodol er mwyn sicrhau bod y Senedd yn amlinellu'r hyn y mae'n credu y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru ganolbwyntio ei gwariant arno dros y flwyddyn ariannol nesaf. Gobeithiwn y byddwch chi ac Aelodau o'ch Pwyllgorau yn manteisio ar y cyfle i gyfrannu at y ddadl bwysig hon.

Yn dilyn y ddadl, byddaf yn ysgrifennu atoch eto i nodi ffocws cyllidebol y Pwyllgor Cyllid, manylion yr ymgynghoriad, a'n hamserlen ar gyfer craffu ar y gyllideb.

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, ar 0300 200 6372, neu seneddcyllid@senedd.cymru

Yn gywir



Llyr Gruffydd AC
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Adrian Crompton

Archwilydd Cyffredinol Cymru

Sophie Howe

Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol

29 Mai 2020

Lles Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol – Adroddiadau Statudol

Annwyl Adrian a Sophie,

Diolch unwaith eto ichi am ddod i gyfarfod y Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus ar 18 Mai 2020. Roedd yn gyflwyniad ac yn fan cychwyn defnyddiol iawn i'r Senedd ystyried eich adroddiadau statudol pwysig.

Rydym yn cydnabod bod egwyddorion Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol (Cymru) 2015 ('y Ddeddf') yn sail i bob agwedd ar fywyd cyhoeddus yng Nghymru ac mor bwysig yw sicrhau y dylai'r holl waith craffu gan y Senedd gwmpasu popeth.

O'r herwydd, hoffem gymryd amser i fyfrio ar sut y gall y Senedd gyflawni'r gwaith hwn yn effeithiol a byddwn yn disgwyl nes lansiad ffurfiol eich adroddiadau yn yr hydref cyn bwrw ymlaen â'n gwaith craffu. Bydd hyn yn ein galluogi i asesu sut mae cyrff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn ymateb i'ch canfyddiadau ac yn ystyried unrhyw adborth gan randdeiliaid, a fydd yn llywio ein barn.

Er y gofynnwyd i'r Pwyllgor Cyfrifon Cyhoeddus arwain y gwaith hwn, byddaf yn sicrhau bod holl Gadeiryddion Pwyllgorau'r Senedd yn cael eu gwahodd i gyfrannu. Rydym am fod yn glir y bydd angen i'r gwaith craffu hwn gynnwys craffu ôl-ddeddfwriaethol ehangach ar y Ddeddf, a sicrhau bod hyn yn cael ei wneud yn rheolaidd. Ar hyn o bryd, er bod y Ddeddf ar waith ers 5 mlynedd, ni chafwyd craffu ôl-ddeddfwriaethol ehangach hyd yma



Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

 SeneddArchwilio@senedd.cymru

 0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

 SeneddPAC@senedd.wales

 0300 200 6565

a dim ond y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau sy'n craffu ar Gomisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol yn flynyddol.

Rydym yn cydnabod pwysigrwydd ymgorffori'r Ddeddf ar draws Sector Cyhoeddus Cymru. Fodd bynnag, rydym yn pryderu nad yw rhai cyrff cyhoeddus yn ystyried hyn yn flaenoriaeth. Bydd ein hystyriaeth yn gwyntyllu sut y gallai'r Senedd ymgymryd â gwaith craffu ôl-ddeddfwriaethol ar y Ddeddf. Bydd hyn yn cynnwys archwiliad manwl o'r rhwystrau rhag gweithredu'r Ddeddf yn llwyddiannus, fel a ddisgrifir yn eich adroddiadau, a sut y gellir goresgyn y rhwystrau hynny. Er enghraifft:

- Rôl Llywodraeth Cymru wrth gynnig arweiniad ar weithrediad y Ddeddf.
- Cylchoedd cyllido tymor byr, a sut mae'r rhain yn atal cynnydd.
- A oes gan y cyrff y mae'r Ddeddf yn effeithio arnynt ddigon o adnoddau i roi egwyddorion y Ddeddf ar waith yn ymarferol.

Byddwn hefyd yn canolbwyntio ar ddatblygu cerrig milltir clir i fesur cynnydd, ac yn ystyried a ddylid dynodi cyrff cyhoeddus ychwanegol trwy Orchymyn i fod yn ddarostyngedig i'r Ddeddf.

Mae'r Pwyllgor yn cydnabod yr heriau sylweddol a wynebwr gan gyrff cyhoeddus yng Nghymru yn sgil pandemig COVID-19. Rydym yn gweld fframwaith Deddf Llesiant Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol fel cyfle i fynd i'r afael â rhai o'r heriau hyn. Mewn sawl ffordd, mae'r pandemig wedi datblygu egwyddorion y Ddeddf trwy esgor ar fwy o weithio ystwyth a hyblyg, teithio llesol, cydweithio a newidiadau cadarnhaol eraill. Gobeithiwn na fydd y newidiadau cadarnhaol hyn yn cael eu colli gyda llacio cyfyngiadau symud COVID-19.

Nodwn y bydd angen ystyried pob agwedd ar fywyd cyhoeddus trwy ddrych COVID-19 wrth i gyrff cyhoeddus weithredu argymhellion eich adroddiadau. Bydd hyn yn rhan sylfaenol o'n gwaith yn yr hydref.



Rydym yn edrych ymlaen at drafod â chi yn nes ymlaen eleni wrth fwrw ymlaen â'n gwaith craffu ar ganfyddiadau eich adroddiadau.

Yn gywir,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nick Ramsay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending from the end of the name.

Nick Ramsay AS
Cadeirydd

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



Julie James AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JJ/1826/20

John Griffiths AS
Cadeirydd
Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol
Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd CF99 1SN

10 Mehefin 2020

Annwyl John,

Diolch am eich llythyr ar 15 Mai 2020 ar ôl i mi ymddangos yn sesiwn dystiolaeth y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol ar 5 Mai. Rwy'n falch o gael cyfle i drafod effaith Covid-19 ar y portffolio Tai a Llywodraeth Leol. Roeddech yn gofyn yn eich llythyr am ragor o wybodaeth am nifer o faterion, ac rwyf wedi rhoi'r wybodaeth honno isod.

Gyda golwg ar sut gall **awdurdodau lleol gael gafael ar y cyllid ychwanegol**, ac a oes unrhyw anawsterau gweinyddol, mae Cronfa Galedi Frys Awdurdodau Lleol yn cynnig £110m i helpu gyda'r costau ychwanegol sydd wedi codi o ganlyniad i'w hymateb i Covid-19. Rydym wedi canolbwyntio ar ddod o hyd i'r effeithiau ariannol ar awdurdodau lleol, sy'n deillio o'r camau ychwanegol y bu'n rhaid eu cymryd i ymateb i Covid-19 ac o ganlyniad i gostau ychwanegol darparu gwasanaethau parhaus yn fwy cyffredinol. Mae'r ffrwd cyllido hwn yn cynnwys hyd at £40m am gamau gweithredu hanfodol ar brydau ysgol am ddim, £10m ar gyfer cymorth digartrefedd a £40m i gefnogi darparu gofal cymdeithasol i oedolion.

Bydd hawliadau'n cael eu cyflwyno bob mis. Cafodd £2.3m ei dalu ar gyfer costau mis Mawrth a chafodd yr hawliadau ar gyfer mis Ebrill eu cyflwyno ar 20 Mai i'w hasesu a'u talu ym mis Mehefin. Mae awdurdodau wedi cael cymorth i'w llif arian gan fod setliad mis Mai a setliad mis Mehefin wedi cael eu talu'n gynnar ym mis Ebrill sy'n galluogi'r taliad mewn ôl-daliad.

Mewn perthynas â'n gwaith i sicrhau bod awdurdodau lleol yn gallu darparu'r lefelau angenrheidiol o **gymorth ar gyfer yr economi leol** (gan gynnwys y stryd fawr), roedd ein cyhoeddiad Trawsnewid Trefi ym mis Ionawr yn cynnwys pecyn arall o gymorth ar gyfer canol trefi sy'n werth bron i £90m – sy'n adeiladu ar fuddsoddiad rhagamcanol o £800m yn ein trefi ers 2014. Mae'r buddsoddiad hwn yn parhau i alluogi ein partneriaid awdurdod lleol ac eraill i wella canol trefi ledled Cymru.

Rydym wrthi'n datblygu canllawiau i awdurdodau lleol ac eraill ynghylch yr addasiadau a'r ymyriadau dros dro y bydd eu hangen mewn manau cyhoeddus (gan gynnwys y stryd fawr) wrth i gyfyngiadau Covid-19 gael eu codi'n raddol. Fel y nodwyd uchod, mae Cronfa

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Julie.James@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Julie.James@gov.Wales

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth Gymraeg sy'n dod i law yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Galedi Frys Awdurdodau Lleol gwerth £110m yn cefnogi awdurdodau lleol gyda'u costau ychwanegol wrth ymateb i Covid-19.

Rydym hefyd wedi cyhoeddi y byddwn yn cefnogi Ardaloedd Gwella Busnes yng Nghymru gyda'u costau rhedeg am hyd at dri mis er mwyn helpu i sicrhau eu bod yn gallu parhau, a bod ar flaen y gad gydag ymdrechion adfer eu trefi. Mae'r cymorth hwn yn ychwanegol at y £1.7bn (sy'n gyfystyr â 2.7% o gynnyrch domestig gros Cymru) rydym eisoes wedi'i gyhoeddi i gefnogi busnesau yng Nghymru. Mae dros 52,000 o grantiau eisoes wedi cael eu talu, sydd gyda'i gilydd yn werth £640m. Mae'r rhain yn cynnwys grantiau o hyd at £25,000 ar gyfer busnesau manwerthu, hamdden a lletygarwch yng Nghymru sydd mewn eiddo sydd â gwerth ardrethol rhwng £12,001 a £51,000 a grant o £10,000 i gwmnïau sy'n gymwys i gael rhyddhad ardrethi busnesau bach ac sydd â gwerth ardrethol o £12,000 neu lai. Bydd busnesau cymwys hefyd yn elwa o wyliau ardrethi a fydd yn para blwyddyn.

Ar ben hynny, mae ein Cronfa Cadernid Economaidd Covid-19 sy'n werth £500m a gyhoeddodd y Prif Weinidog ar 30 Mawrth yn ategu mesurau cymorth eraill ar gyfer economi Cymru, gan ddarparu cymorth i fusnesau, i fentrau cymdeithasol ac i elusennau sydd wedi gweld gostyngiad sydyn yn eu masnachu o ganlyniad i Covid-19. Yn ystod y cam cyntaf roedd cynllun benthyciadau Banc Datblygu Cymru a oedd yn werth £100m wedi cael ei ddefnyddio i gyd mewn ychydig dros wythnos, ac yn wreiddiol roeddem wedi darparu £300m o gymorth refeniw nad oedd yn rhaid ei ad-dalu i fusnesau. Ar hyn o bryd rydym wrthi'n cwblhau manylion cam nesaf y Gronfa Cadernid Economaidd, ac rydym yn disgwyl gwahodd ceisiadau erbyn diwedd mis Mehefin. Mae hyn ar ben ein Rhyddhad Ardrethi a chynllun Grantiau Busnes Llywodraeth Cymru sy'n cael ei weinyddu gan awdurdodau lleol.

Mae ein timau rhanbarthol yn gweithio gyda chydweithwyr o Busnes Cymru, Banc Datblygu Cymru ac awdurdodau lleol er mwyn casglu gwybodaeth am effaith Covid ar gwmnïau, gan gynnwys yn y sector ar wahân i fusnesau bach a chanolig. Mae datblygu'r Fframwaith Economaidd Rhanbarthol yn bwysicach nawr nag erioed ac rydym yn cynnig ein bod yn newid ffocws y gwaith dros y tymor byr i ganolbwyntio ar yr 'adferiad' economaidd yn dilyn Covid-19. Rydym hefyd yn parhau i gynnig cyngor a chefnogaeth drwy Busnes Cymru, <https://businesswales.gov.wales/cy/benthyciadau-cychwyn-busnes> ac mae Benthyciadau Cychwyn Busnes yn dal ar gael i ddarparu cyllid i fusnesau sy'n cychwyn yng Nghymru ac mae gan Fanc Datblygu Cymru nifer o gronfeydd ar gael i gefnogi busnesau'n ariannol: <https://banccatblygu.cymru>

Roeddech chi wedi gofyn beth sy'n cael ei wneud yn Llywodraeth Cymru i gofnodi'r newidiadau cadarnhaol i'r ffordd caiff **gwasanaethau awdurdodau lleol** eu darparu a'r arferion gwaith sydd wedi cael eu cyflwyno ers y pandemig, ac roeddech yn holi am rannu'r rhain ar draws y sector.

Rwyf yn awyddus i sicrhau bod cynllunio'r adferiad yn cael ei ddefnyddio fel cyfle i drawsnewid sut caiff gwasanaethau eu darparu, gan gydnabod mewn sawl maes gwasanaeth ein bod wedi newid sut rydym yn gweithredu'n llwyr; ac adeiladu ar y ffyrdd newydd o weithio yr oedd eu hangen er mwyn ymateb i Covid-19. Rydym yn gweithio gyda CLILC i feddwl am y ffordd orau o gefnogi llywodraeth leol i wneud hyn, gan gynnwys drwy'r rhaglen cymorth gwella sy'n cael ei harwain gan y sector y mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn ei hariannu. Byddaf hefyd yn defnyddio'r amrywiaeth o ffyrdd rydym sydd gennym i ymgysylltu â llywodraeth leol, yn strategol ac ynghylch gwasanaethau penodol, i ganfod ac i rannu'r arferion da hyn. Cynhelir cyfarfod nesaf Cyngor Partneriaeth Cymru ar 10 Mehefin a bydd yn canolbwyntio ar y paratodau ar gyfer adferiad yn y dyfodol, gan gynnwys ystyried y problemau, y cyfleoedd a'r blaenoriaethau ar gyfer adferiad cynaliadwy a thrawsnewid yn y tymor hwy.

Ar ben hynny, mae'r Prif Weinidog wedi cynnull cyfarfodydd rheolaidd o Gyngor Cysgodol y Bartneriaeth Gymdeithasol – sy'n cynnwys cynrychiolwyr o undebau, cyflogwyr a llywodraeth. Yn ystod cyfarfod Gyngor Cysgodol y Bartneriaeth Gymdeithasol ar 14 Mai cytunwyd y dylid ymestyn yr aelodaeth dros dro oherwydd yr amgylchiadau eithriadol o ganlyniad i Covid-19. Mae hi'n hollbwysig ein bod yn cael golwg lawn a chytbwys o'r materion sy'n wynebu'r sectorau cyhoeddus, preifat a gwirfoddol wrth symud ymlaen a bydd Gyngor Cysgodol y Bartneriaeth Gymdeithasol nawr yn cwrdd bob pythefnos i drafod y rhain. Rydym i gyd wedi ymrwymo i bartneriaeth gymdeithasol ac rydym yn wynebu'r un materion wrth edrych tua'r adferiad. Mae Gyngor Cysgodol y Bartneriaeth Gymdeithasol yn gyfle i bartneriaid cymdeithasol ymgysylltu ynghylch adfer yn dilyn Covid 19 ar lefel uchel a thrafod sut gall partneriaeth gymdeithasol gyfrannu at y cynllunio manylach y bydd angen ei wneud.

Rydym yn defnyddio'r system gynllunio i harneisio canlyniadau cadarnhaol y pandemig gan gynnwys mwy o weithio gartref, ansawdd aer gwell, pwyslais ar deithio llesol a mwy o ddibyniaeth ar rwydweithiau economaidd, cymdeithasol ac amgylcheddol lleol. Mae Polisi Cynllunio Cymru a'r Fframwaith Datblygu Cenedlaethol wedi cael eu dylunio i fynd i'r afael â'r heriau economaidd, cymdeithasol ac amgylcheddol y mae'n rhaid i Gymru roi sylw iddynt mewn ffordd integredig drwy ddefnyddio creu lleoedd. Mae'r pandemig wedi amlygu pwysigrwydd yr heriau dan sylw ymhellach. Y nod yw gwneud economïau, cymunedau ac amgylcheddau lleol yn gryfach drwy gefnogi cyfleoedd priodol i ddatblygu ledled Cymru. Rydym hefyd yn canfod ac yn adolygu polisiau cynllunio hen a newydd ac offer cynllunio eraill i weld os oes angen newidiadau i helpu'r adferiad ar ôl COVID-19.

Mae awdurdodau lleol hefyd yn cael eu hannog i rannu'r gwersi sydd wedi cael eu dysgu a nodi'r newidiadau cadarnhaol sydd wedi cael eu gwneud i wasanaethau sy'n cael eu darparu drwy'r Grant Plant a Chymunedau. Ar hyn o bryd, mae'r tîm Alinio Cyllid yn gweithio gydag awdurdodau lleol drwy weminarau bob pythefnos ac rydym yn edrych ar ffyrdd o rannu'r wybodaeth hon yn well.

Mae gwaith arloesol a chadarnhaol iawn hefyd wedi cael ei wneud ar gysgu allan a digartrefedd, sy'n cyd-fynd â'ch cais am ragor o eglurder ynghylch sut rydym yn sicrhau bod lefelau cyson o **gymorth ar gyfer y rheini sydd wedi cael llety** ar draws Cymru. O'r safbwyntiau hynny, mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi creu rhith-dîm sy'n cysylltu'n uniongyrchol â'r 22 awdurdod lleol i ddarparu cymorth a rhannu unrhyw ganllawiau, negeseuon ynghylch rheoleiddio a chyfathrebu yn ehangach a sicrhau bod pob awdurdod yn effeithiol wrth weithredu gofynion canllawiau sy'n ymwneud â llety a gwasanaethau cefnogi.

Mae'r tîm yn cysylltu'n rheolaidd â CLILC, sef y sefydliad ambarél sy'n cynrychioli awdurdodau lleol ledled Cymru, a Cymorth, sef y sefydliad ambarél trydydd sector ar gyfer mudiadau cefnogi, er mwyn sicrhau bod achosion o'r arferion gorau o ran darparu gwasanaethau'n cael eu cofnodi bob wythnos a bod modd eu rhannu ar draws y sector.

Mae nifer o swyddogion Llywodraeth Cymru yn gweithio'n uniongyrchol gydag awdurdodau lleol pan fydd gwybodaeth sydd wedi cael ei chofnodi gan y rhith-dîm wedi dangos bod angen cymorth ychwanegol i ddod o hyd i gapasiti llety ychwanegol neu help ehangach gyda gwasanaethau cefnogi.

Rydym hefyd wedi trefnu nifer o ddigwyddiadau dros y we er mwyn dod â rhanddeiliaid sectorau allweddol ynghyd i gyfathrebu'n uniongyrchol a rhannu achosion o ddarparu gwasanaethau'n dda a lle mae gwasanaethau wedi cael eu haddasu i ddiwallu'r galw a ffyrdd newydd o weithio yn ystod y pandemig. Mae hyn yn cynnwys gweminar sy'n cael ei gynnal gan Shelter Cymru, CLILC, Cartrefi Cymunedol Cymru a Cymorth a oedd wedi canfod, cofnodi a rhannu achosion o weithio a chydweithio llwyddiannus ar draws y sector. Rydym hefyd wedi gofyn i awdurdodau lleol, Landlordiaid Cymdeithasol Cofrestredig a

darparwyr cefnogaeth i rannu enghreifftiau o weithio llwyddiannus y byddai modd i ardaloedd eraill eu mabwysiadu.

Rydym wedi lansio ein rhaglen Llwybr at Dai sy'n nodi'r prif ddisgwyliadau ac egwyddorion ar gyfer awdurdodau lleol a'r sector yn ehangach dros y cyfnod nesaf o gefnogi'r rheini sydd wedi cael eu rhoi mewn llety brys hyd yma. Yn dilyn y digwyddiad lansio, *Cynllunio, Adeiladu, Trawsnewid* (a gynhaliwyd ar 28 Mai) rydym wedi cynllunio cyfres o ddigwyddiadau dilynol sy'n canolbwyntio ar adeiladu ar y llwyddiannau sydd wedi cael eu canfod hyd yna a dod o hyd i gyfleoedd ar gyfer rhagor o gydweithio yn y sector.

A throi at sut gallwn newid agweddau a dulliau er mwyn ymgysylltu'n well â'r **trydydd sector** a'i gynnwys yn well a sicrhau bod hynny'n parhau ar ôl i'r argyfwng hwn basio. Mae hi'n bwysig ein bod yn cydnabod yn gyhoeddus ymgysylltiad gwych pobl Cymru drwy wirfoddoli i gefnogi pobl eraill. Mae Wythnos y Gwirfoddolwyr yn gyfle perffaith ar gyfer hyn ac mae wedi cael mwy o sylw ac mae'n rhoi cyfle i godi proffil gwirfoddoli a'r manteision i'r naill ochr a'r llall. Caiff hyn ei gefnogi gan ganllawiau hygyrch clir sy'n sicrhau bod gwirfoddolwyr yn cael gwybodaeth a'u bod yn ddiogel.

Mae hi'n bwysig hefyd ein bod yn cadw'r momentwm a'r diddordeb mewn gwirfoddoli a lle nad oes modd defnyddio gwirfoddolwyr ar hyn o bryd rydym yn cadw mewn cysylltiad, gan gynnig hyfforddiant sgiliau ac rydym yn gweithio'n agos gyda mudiadau cymunedol i asesu'r anghenion.

Mae gwaith partneriaeth agos yn hanfodol ac mae'r ffaith bod awdurdodau lleol yn gweithio'n agos gyda Chynghorau Gwirfoddoli Sirol a Byrddau Iechyd Lleol yn golygu bod y seilwaith mewn lle ynghyd â'r gallu i gynllunio, i gofnodi anghenion ac i ddarparu cymorth.

Yn y pen draw, mae Llywodraeth Cymru yn falch o'r ffordd mae'r trydydd sector wedi cael ei gefnogi ac mae hyn wedi talu ar ei ganfed drwy alluogi mudiadau Cymru i wynebu'r her. Daw hyn yn bwysicach fyth wrth i ni symud ymlaen at gyfnod a fydd yn anoddach yn ariannol.

Roeddech wedi gofyn am ragor o fanylion ynghylch unrhyw drafodaethau gyda Llywodraeth y DU ynghylch cyfraddau **Lwfans Tai Lleol** a'r cymorth sydd ar gael i bobl **nad ydynt yn gallu cael gafael arian cyhoeddus**. Ysgrifennodd y Prif Weinidog at Brif Weinidog y DU ar 6 Hydref 2019 ynghylch effaith negyddol gadael yr UE heb gytundeb ar Gymru. Yn y llythyr dywedodd y Prif Weinidog fod Llywodraeth Cymru yn credu y dylai blaenoriaethau'r pecyn gynnwys cynyddu cyllid y gwasanaethau cyhoeddus allweddol mae pobl ddifreintiedig yn dibynnu arnynt; a chynyddu taliadau budd-daliadau i grwpiau sydd dan anfantais, ac yn benodol mynd i'r afael â'r blwch sy'n cynyddu rhwng budd-daliadau sy'n ymwneud â thai a gwerth rhenti go iawn.

Yn olaf, mewn perthynas â'ch cwestiwn ynghylch meini prawf yr **Ardrethi Annomestig**, mae gan Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Brisio ac awdurdodau lleol weithdrefnau sefydlog a manwl ar waith ar gyfer pennu a yw eiddo yn un domestig neu'n un annomestig, ac mae'r rhain yn cael eu cefnogi gan ddeddfwriaeth a chanllawiau helaeth. Mae'r meini prawf cymhwyso ar gyfer eiddo hunanddarpar sydd i'w dosbarthu fel rhai annomestig wedi cael eu nodi'n glir mewn deddfwriaeth ac rydym wedi ymgynghori'n eang ynghylch y mater hwn droeon. Meini prawf Cymru yw'r mwyaf caeth o blith holl wledydd y DU. Mae'r gyfraith yn taro cydbwysedd rhwng buddiannau cymunedau lleol, perchnogion cartrefi a'r diwydiant twristiaeth.

Mae'n rhaid i berchnogion llety hunanddarpar ddarparu tystiolaeth bod eu heiddo yn diwallu'r meini prawf. Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Brisio sy'n pennu os yw eiddo yn domestig neu'n annomestig. Mae'r Asiantaeth yn annibynnol ar Lywodraeth Cymru. Rhaid i

berchnogion sy'n ceisio symud eu heiddo o restr y dreth gyngor i restr annomestig fel llety hunanddarpar gyflwyno cais i Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Brisió. Rhaid iddynt lenwi ffurflen a darparu tystiolaeth mewn dogfen bod yr eiddo'n diwallu'r meini prawf gosod. Rhaid i Asiantaeth y Swyddfa Brisió adolygu'r dystiolaeth hon cyn newid y rhestr.

Rydym yn gwybod bod rhai awdurdodau lleol wedi mynegi pryderon ynghylch y posibilrwydd y gallai'r grantiau Covid-19 gael eu talu i berchnogion eiddo sydd ond yn gosod eu heiddo o bryd i'w gilydd. Cafodd canllawiau'r grant eu diwygio ar ôl cael trafodaethau gydag awdurdodau lleol. Er mwyn sicrhau eglurder a chysondeb wrth weinyddu'r cynllun, nid oes cynlluniau i ddiwygio'r meini prawf cymhwysedd.

Gobeithio bod yr wybodaeth hon o gymorth i'r Pwyllgor.

Yn gywir,



Julie James AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government