

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/01118/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
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3 December 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter dated 18 November.

I acknowledge there are high numbers of older people experiencing abuse, and that the COVID pandemic has made this group of victims particularly more vulnerable. I am committed in ensuring that the issues raised in the petition are all dealt appropriately and with consideration.

Welsh Government will continue to work closely with, the Older People's Commissioner, to ensure there is adequate support and appropriate accommodation to enable older people fleeing domestic abuse. This year we have invested over £1.3 million for disbursed community accommodation for those for whom refuge might not be the right answer, including older people.

Recognising the impact COVID restrictions would have on all victims of violence and abuse, we launched a multi-media campaign in April this year. The campaign 'Home shouldn't be a place of fear' reminds victims that services are still operating, and to encourage bystanders and concerned others to access help and information.

Home shouldn't be a place of fear has been shared widely across TV, Radio, National and local news and press, online, and with support of community networks such as pharmacies, local supermarkets and police forces, reaching the most vulnerable. We developed the campaign with the support of the VAWDASV Communication group, which Dewis Choice is a member of, ensuring that the needs of older people are considered throughout our communications.

Another multimedia phase of the campaign is planned for the New Year.

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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.

I understand the Commissioner recently wrote to ONS raising her concern about data collection for older people. I will ensure that officials continue to represent Welsh Government in the Commissioners meetings.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke above the first letter of "Jane".

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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