

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Llywodraeth Leol a Busnes y Llywodraeth  
Minister for Local Government and Government Business



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/01853/13

Darren Millar AM  
Chair - Public Accounts Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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Dear Darren

**Public Accounts Committee – Civil Emergencies in Wales**

I refer to your letter of 18 October seeking further clarification of the response of the Welsh Government to the Public Accounts Committee report on 'Civil Emergencies in Wales'.

We have made it quite clear in our response to the Silk Commission we have very limited formal powers under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The transfer of functions will provide us the necessary powers to monitor performance as well as recognise the leadership and co-ordination role we already play. The principle established under the legislation is Category 1 and 2 responders are responsible for monitoring the delivery of the duties through their own performance monitoring or regulatory regimes. However, given the leadership role Welsh Government plays we will look to support the current arrangements to monitor the performance of Category One and Two responders through existing performance mechanisms.

I also wish to clarify the point we do not intend to legislate more widely ahead of Silk given the opportunities to seek additional powers using other legislative vehicles are limited.

I can assure you my officials are continuing to work with Local Resilience Fora and individual Category 1 and 2 Responders in Wales in promoting consistency in monitoring performance. As reported, my officials have encouraged the use of the Expectation Set to support responders in continuing to develop their capabilities in civil contingencies and emergency preparedness. Whilst this document touches on some elements of response and recovery by highlighting indicators of good practice it is recognised that these examples are by no means exhaustive. My officials have, therefore, also promoted the further use of peer review as a means to instil continuous improvement.

We are also looking at ways in which we can build upon the work being undertaken by Academi Wales on the Wales Gold training to explore ways in which a set of competencies can be developed. This will be considered by the Wales Learning and Development Group and, if feasible, a competency framework will be built into the 3 year programme of work the Group is developing.

My officials are also working with Local Resilience Fora to promote engagement with the Third Sector and to encourage their further participation in training and exercising. At the Wales Resilience Forum meeting on 19 June it was recognised how important it was engagement with the Third Sector should continue to remain primarily at the local level. I should add relationships are already strong in many areas. Taking the North Wales Local Resilience Forum as an example, the British Red Cross acts as deputy chair of their Humanitarian Assistance Group and represents the Forum on all-Wales groups.

One of the recommendations agreed by the Wales Resilience Forum on 19 June was consideration should be given to the Third Sector chairing a joint Community Resilience and Humanitarian Assistance Group at the all-Wales level. Officials have met and agreed with Wales Council for Voluntary Action and the British Red Cross to establish an all-Wales group which they will jointly chair. Local Resilience Fora have been advised of this development. This all Wales group will also consider Third Sector engagement and will be best placed to consider whether a Memorandum of Understanding at an all-Wales level will be of benefit as part of its programme of work.

My officials will keep the Committee informed of the progress being made through the usual formal processes.

Regards  
Lesley

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