

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: SF/LG/0345/15

Christine Chapman AM, Chair  
Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Christine.Chapman@assembly.wales

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*Dear Christine,*

At the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee on 14 January I agreed to write to you, providing further information on issues raised.

The Committee requested expenditure profile figures for the Discretionary Assistance Fund, from November 2014 until March 2015. I can confirm spend until the end of December 2014 is £6.1 million. The expenditure levels are monitored closely and if spend for the final three months of this financial year follows the predicted trends it will result in a spend of just over £8.1m, from the £10 m budget. This will be an increase of just under £1 million on the spend from 2013/14.

The Committee also requested a note on work which has been carried out to map the impact of economic policy on poverty. No specific work has been undertaken to 'map' the input of the Welsh Government's economic policy on poverty, however, there are clear links being made between economic and tackling poverty policies. Work remains the best route out of poverty. Job opportunities, employment and growth are at the heart of the Programme for Government, as is tackling poverty. One of the three key themes in the Tackling Poverty Action Plan is helping people into work.

The Welsh Government is taking forward a series of specific actions connected to economic policy which link to the tackling poverty agenda. Some of these are set out in Annex A.

*Regards  
Lesley*

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