

SP 32

Blaenoriaethau ar gyfer y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb,  
Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Priorities for the Equality,  
Local Government and Communities Committee  
Ymateb gan: FSB Wales  
Response from: FSB Wales

Mr John Griffiths AM  
Chair  
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

2 September 2016

Dear Mr Griffiths,

### **Priorities for the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee**

FSB Wales welcomes the opportunity to present our views on the priorities for the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee. FSB Wales is the authoritative voice of businesses in Wales. With 10,000 members, a Welsh Policy Unit, two regional committees and twelve branch committees; FSB Wales is in constant contact with business at a grassroots level. We undertake regular online surveys of our members on a wide range of issues and concerns facing small business.

FSB Wales has taken a keen interest in issues relating to tackling poverty and the key role that small businesses can play in addressing this problem. Likewise, we are keen to ensure that the remaining EU funding for tackling poverty is spent in ways which best benefit communities across the whole of Wales. For this reason, we are particularly keen to see the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee include these topics of inquiry at an early stage in the future programme of work.

FSB Wales is also concerned that there is no clear ministerial lead on tackling poverty as existed in the previous Welsh Government. As a result, FSB Wales is unclear how best to engage with this agenda.

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Bevan Foundation have both reported on the rise of in-work poverty in recent years. Often studies of in-work poverty focus on employed people whereas self-employed people are also likely to face similar issues. Research by the Social Market Foundation published in March 2016 found that around half (49 percent) of the UK's self-employed are in low pay, measured on an hourly basis, compared with around a fifth of employees (22 percent) and that there is an increasingly sharp divide between low paid workers who are employees and low-paid workers who are self-employed.



Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes  
Experts in Business

FSB Wales would welcome a Committee inquiry into in-work poverty which takes account of self-employment issues. We are hoping to undertake some research on the factors which push or pull people into self-employment across Wales and provides and assessment of the value of self-employment to local economies in Wales.

I hope you find the comments of FSB Wales of interest.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Janet Jones'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line.

**Janet Jones**  
Wales Policy Chair  
**FSB Wales**