

John Griffiths AM
Equality, Local Government & Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
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1 May 2019

Ref: Equality, Local Government & Communities Committee inquiry into the Blue Badge Scheme in Wales: Eligibility and Implementation – Comment on Ministerial Evidence Session – 1 May 2019

Alzheimer's Society Cymru
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Dear John Griffiths AM,

I am writing to place on record a point of clarification regarding the Minister for Economy and Transport's evidence session to the committee on 1 May 2019.

During the session and under questioning from Jenny Rathbone AM, regarding issues with the appeals process raised by ourselves, Disability Wales and others, the Minister stated that there is an appeals process in place regarding rejected blue badge applications. The Minister stated that this was the Independent Advisory Service (IAS).

However, I would like to draw your attention to page eight of the Welsh Government's 'Who is eligible for a Blue Badge?' document (May 2017) which explicitly states: "The local authority's decision on eligibility is final. There is no appeals process."

It is the understanding of Alzheimer's Society Cymru that the IAS provides independent assessment services to local authorities to help them determine the outcome of an application. We are aware that this is the case in England, and would seek clarification on whether this is the case in Wales.

We would also seek clarification from the Minister that the above quotation from the Welsh Government's 'Who is eligible for a Blue Badge?' document is correct and that there is no formal appeals process to local authorities.

Additionally we would seek clarification of what the appeals process to Welsh Government actually covers, and what is necessary to lodge an appeal against a local authority decision with the Welsh Government.

Finally, and pending the response from the Minister on this issue, we would seek clarification on whether the Welsh Government would be willing to explore the creation of an independent appeals process for the blue badges application process.

If you require any other information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Phelps".

Sue Phelps
Country Director, Alzheimer's Society Cymru

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