



Eich cyf/Your ref: Petition P-05-892  
Ein cyf/Our ref VG/06697/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

20 June 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 30 May about the petition you have received from Cardiff People First that a person with a learning disability should be appointed as a Learning Disability Commissioner for Wales.

In 2017, we undertook a comprehensive review of Learning Disability services in Wales to identify areas where action could potentially be taken to build on good practice. We took a lifespan approach and looked at all areas of life. Over 2000 people took part in the review, including individuals with a learning disability, families/carers, third sector organisations and the statutory sector. The report of the review contained 24 recommendations for action across early years, housing, social care, health, education, transport, employment and skills. The Cabinet accepted all of the recommendations and in June last year, we published our Learning Disability Improving Lives cross-government Programme.

We are delivering the Improving Lives Programme as a priority and have established a Learning Disability Ministerial Advisory Group to oversee its implementation. This group is co-chaired by Sophie Hinksman who has a learning disability and there are a further two members of the group with a learning disability. We fund a support worker for each of these members to ensure they can play a full and active role in this important group.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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.

Other members include representatives from the statutory sector, academia, families and carers and the third sector, including the Chief Executive Officer of All Wales People First. On that basis, I feel that the learning disability community does have a strong voice and a platform to shape and influence delivery of the Programme. Whilst I appreciate the efforts and concerns of the petitioners, for the reasons outlined above, I remain to be convinced of the need to establish a Learning Disability Commissioner at this time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

**Vaughan Gething AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services