

Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5 – Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: Monday, 12 October 2020

Meeting time: 13.00 – 16.30

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/6500>

Attendance

Category	Names
Assembly Members:	John Griffiths MS (Chair) Dawn Bowden MS Huw Irranca-Davies MS Mark Isherwood MS Delyth Jewell MS Caroline Jones MS
Witnesses:	Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government Emma Williams, Welsh Government Claire Bennett, Welsh Government Jane Hutt MS, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip Alyson Francis, Welsh Government
Committee Staff:	Naomi Stocks (Clerk) Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk) Jonathan Baxter (Researcher) Osian Bowyer (Researcher)



	Hannah Johnson (Researcher) Stephen Davies (Legal Adviser) Manon Huws (Legal Adviser)
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1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

1.1. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee.

1.2. In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair stated that he had determined that the public were excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health.

1.3. The Chair stated that if for any reason he dropped out of the meeting, the Committee agreed that Dawn Bowden MS would become Temporary Chair in accordance with Standing Order 17.22.

2 Inquiry into COVID-19 and its impact on matters relating to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's remit – evidence session with the Minister for Housing and Local Government

2.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Julie James MS, Minister for Housing and Local Government
- Emma Williams, Director, Housing and Regeneration, Welsh Government
- Claire Bennett, Director, Communities and Tackling Poverty, Welsh Government

3 Inquiry into COVID-19 and its impact on matters relating to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's remit – evidence session with the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip

3.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Jane Hutt MS, Deputy Minister and Chief Whip
- Alyson Francis, Deputy Director of Communities Division, Welsh Government

3.2. During the evidence session, the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip agreed to provide:

- a list of the accessible communications group's members;
- the deadline for the violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) sustainable funding group to agree the sustainable funding model.

4 Paper(s) to note

4.1 Letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government to all Committee Chairs in relation to the National Development Framework

4.1.a. The Committee noted the letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government to all Committee Chairs in relation to the National Development Framework.

4.2 Correspondence from the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd to the Llywydd in relation to the Coronavirus Act 2020 (Residential Tenancies: Protection from Eviction) (Wales) Regulations 2020

4.2.a. The Committee noted the correspondence from the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd to the Llywydd in relation to the Coronavirus Act 2020 (Residential Tenancies: Protection from Eviction) (Wales) Regulations 2020.

4.3 Additional information from the Welsh Government in relation to the Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill

4.3.a. The Committee noted the additional information from the Welsh Government in relation to the Renting Homes (Amendment) (Wales) Bill.

4.4 Letter from the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip in relation to the Legislative Consent Memorandum: Domestic Abuse Bill

4.4.a. The Committee noted the letter from the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip in relation to the Legislative Consent Memorandum: Domestic Abuse Bill.

4.5 Letter from the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee in relation to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic

4.5.a. The Committee noted the letter from the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee in relation to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

5.1. The Committee agreed the motion.

6 Inquiry into COVID-19 and its impact on matters relating to the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's remit – consideration of evidence received

6.1. The Committee discussed the evidence received and agreed to write to the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip in relation to matters raised during the session.

7 Legislative Consent Memorandum: Domestic Abuse Bill – consideration of the response from the Welsh Government

7.1. The Committee discussed the response from the Welsh Government and agreed to write a joint response with the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.