

Carl Sargeant AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee  
ELGC(5)–08–17 Papur 2/ Paper 2

28 February 2017

Dear Cabinet Secretary

We recently took oral evidence from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure, which will help inform the Committee's direction on looking at poverty in Wales.

As part of this session, we discussed the issues of unclaimed benefits and financial inclusion. We agreed to write to you, as the responsible Cabinet Secretary.

#### Unclaimed benefits

This is an issue which concerned our predecessor Committee, and we share these concerns. During the evidence session, we heard of work, such as Better Advice, Better Lives, which will help address this issue. Officials, during the evidence session, agreed to provide a note on the project which is providing benefits information in GP practices.



However, to gain a better understanding of this issue, we would welcome further data and information on the level of unclaimed benefits in Wales. We are aware the Department of Work and Pensions publishes estimates of take-up of income related benefits, with the last dataset published in June 2016 for 2014/15. This data covers the whole of Great Britain. We would like clarification on whether the Welsh Government holds equivalent information. We will also be writing to the Department for Work and Pensions about this issue.

#### Financial inclusion

Closely linked to this is the broader issue of financial inclusion. We are aware that credit unions play an important role in delivering the financial inclusion agenda, and in particular offering communities affordable credit. We would welcome more information on the work the Welsh Government is undertaking to support and promote the work of credit unions.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

John Griffiths AM  
Chair



Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

