

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/05008/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

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Dear David,

Thank you for your letter of 18 December informing me about the Malpas Women's Institute petition calling for free sanitary products to all women in low income households.

I think it is a disgrace that some people in Wales are unable to go about their daily business simply because they are unable to afford adequate period products for themselves and their families.

You may already know that we have allocated over £1million over three years up to 2020 in grant funding to local authorities to help tackle period poverty and ensure period dignity. A proportion of this is being used to ensure school toilets are adequately equipped so that young people can manage their periods with confidence. Local authorities are best placed to understand the needs of their communities and the people most in need of support. They have been given the freedom to spend the funding on supplying period products to people who would otherwise be unable to afford them by working with schools, food banks and other community organisations.

There are some excellent examples of how well this is working and I am particularly pleased to see how local authorities are engaging with and listening to the views of young people about what sort of provision would suit them best. My officials will continue to monitor the progress made by local authorities and share best practice across Wales as appropriate.

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@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.

Scottish Government's commitment to universal provision of free period products to all students in school, college and university and also targeted support for low income households is commendable. My officials are in regular contact with their counterparts in Scotland to keep up to date with how it is working and what lessons can be learned.

One of the proposals in the First Minister's manifesto was to promote an action plan to support period dignity and maintain current investment in schools. Lessons learned from other programmes tackling period poverty, along with the local authorities' feedback on their actions will help to shape our future approach to addressing this issue.



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