

Mark Isherwood MS  
Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee Chair  
[by e-mail]

15 February 2022

Dear Mark

Thank you for your letter dated 10 December 2021 regarding the use of the acronym 'B.A.M.E' by the Senedd Commission.

Early during the Autumn term 2021, Commission officials consulted with the Commission's Race, Ethnicity and Cultural Heritage workplace equality network (REACH) regarding its preferences. Network members expressed a number of opinions, and the networks' collective preference was to retain the acronym B.A.M.E. As a result of your letter, the network has worked with the Commission's Diversity and Inclusion team to revisit the position.

The Senedd Commission considered the use of the acronym 'B.A.M.E' at its meeting on 31 January. The Commission considered a paper that set out some of the wider debate surrounding the use of the acronym and recognised the difficulty of capturing the complex histories and cultures of people from ethnic minority backgrounds in a single phrase or acronym.

Commissioners agreed that the Commission would:

- a. Observe context as a key driver for use of terminology and opt for specificity when using terminology wherever possible;
- b. Where specificity is not possible, to replace use of the acronym and collective term B.A.M.E. with the collective term(s) 'ethnic minority' and 'ethnic minority community'; and
- c. regularly review use of terminology and monitor internal and external debate.

In addition they agreed that Commission officials should seek meetings with those Members of the Senedd who are from an ethnic minority background to discuss the matter further, and that the



**Senedd Cymru**

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

 Contact@senedd.cymru

 0300 200 6565

**Welsh Parliament**

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

 Contact@senedd.wales

 0300 200 6565

information Commissioners had considered should form the basis of a briefing for Members, initially committee chairs.

Commissioners agreed that the guidance contained in the paper would be published internally to support Commission officials in drafting documents.

The Chairs' Forum will consider the item on Thursday 17 February 2022.

You will be aware that the Commission's Sixth Senedd Diversity and Inclusion Strategy is currently being consulted upon. Members have been asked to engage with the consultation process through the Members' Engagement Survey which is currently live. A number of Members have indicated that they would welcome a further discussion with Commission Officials, and these are currently being arranged. Similarly, if Members of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee would find a similar conversation helpful, please let me know, and I can make the necessary arrangements.

Yours sincerely



**Manon Antoniazzi**

**Prif Weithredwr a Chlerc y Senedd / Chief Executive and Clerk of the Senedd**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

