

Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Jane Hutt AM
Minister for Finance and Leader of the House
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

4 March 2013

Dear Minister

**Consultation on implementing the Mobile Homes Act 1983 on local authority
Gypsy and Traveller sites**

As you may be aware, the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee recently completed its Stage 1 scrutiny of Peter Black's Regulated Mobile Home Sites (Wales) Bill. The Bill seeks to update the legislative framework and licensing regime for mobile home sites in Wales by placing a duty on local authorities to establish, monitor and enforce a new mobile home site licensing regime; give Welsh Ministers powers to make management regulations; and modernise a number of aspects of the contractual relationship between mobile home owners and site operators. The Bill as drafted obliges local authorities to have regard to the desirability of collaborating to deliver their duties, and introduces a fit and proper person test for site owners and site managers.

The Member in Charge of the Bill told the Committee on 14 November 2012 that the Bill was intended to focus specifically on mobile home sites, and that it was not his intention that it should apply to Gypsy and Traveller sites. Section 1 of the Bill as drafted defines a "regulated site" to which the Bill applies as:

"a protected site in Wales on which at least one mobile home is stationed under an agreement to which the Mobile Homes Act 1983 (c.34) ("the 1983 Act") applies".

At present therefore, the Bill as drafted will not apply to local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites, which do not fall within the provisions of the 1983 Act.

I am writing to you to bring to your attention that, should you decide to amend the 1983 Act to include local authority Gypsy and Traveller sites within the definition of “protected sites”, this would have the unintended consequence of also bringing such sites within the provisions of the Regulated Mobile Home Sites (Wales) Bill, and to ask you to give due consideration to this when making your decision.

I enclose, for your information, a copy of the Committee’s Stage 1 report, which was published on Thursday 21 February.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Ann Jones AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

cc John Davies, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Division