

Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
ELGC(5)-12-17 Papur 6/ Paper 6

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/P/CS/0153/16

John Griffiths AM
Chair of the Equality, Local Government & Communities Committee

16 March 2017

Dear John

Please find below and attached additional information requested by the Committee in relation to the Inquiry into support for refugees and asylum seekers in Wales.

Meetings and Remit of the Operations Board

I can confirm that the Operations Board met on 27th February and agreed revised Terms of Reference including an expanded remit and change of name to Wales Refugee and Asylum Seekers Operations Board. The previous meeting was held on 13th June 2016.

Refresh of the Refugees and Asylum Seekers Delivery Plan

The Operations Board agreed that the Delivery Plan should be refreshed during 2017. However, it is not quite correct that this process will begin with a conference in the Summer. The work to refresh the plan will begin as soon as possible, whereas we are still in the early stages of planning for a conference. The Operations Board indicated its support in principle for such an event taking place, but no details or dates have yet been confirmed. While we would hope that it would contribute to the process of updating the Delivery Plan, it is too soon to say how this would be achieved.

Right to Rent Checks

The Welsh Government has not been notified of the intended rollout date for the Right to Rent checks in Wales but we are keen to ensure that the rollout in Wales is properly managed to allow sufficient time for landlords to understand their new responsibilities and the system is working as it should without causing discrimination.

The Cabinet Secretary has recently written to the Immigration Minister, Robert Goodwill MP, to explain this (see attached letter).

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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.

Asylum accommodation

I previously wrote to you on 2 March to state that I take this issue seriously and will be looking into the matter. I have already asked local authority housing portfolio holders to consider any examples of poor accommodation in their area and provide them. This issue will continue to be explored.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Carl Sargeant'.

Carl Sargeant AC/AM

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