

Dear

ATISN 26374 – Local Housing Allowance

Thank you for your request which we received on 13 November. You asked for:

- Further to ATISN 25198 – Local Housing Allowance; information regarding further correspondence between the Welsh Government and UK Government since April 2025 relating to Local Housing Allowance.

Our response

Since April 2025, the Cabinet Secretary for Housing and Local Government has not issued any further correspondence to the UK Government regarding Local Housing Allowance rates.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip sent a letter to the UK Government in May 2025 regarding the Welsh Government's priorities for the proposed UK Government Child Poverty Strategy. This included a request that the Local Housing Allowance rates be restored to the 50th percentile. The correspondence is attached below at **Annex A**. Please note that the letter is dated May 2024 due to a drafting error and it was in fact sent in May 2025.

The Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip sent another letter to the UK Government in October 2025, regarding the Welsh Government's priorities for the proposed UK Government Child Poverty Strategy. This again included a request that the Local Housing Allowance rates be restored to the 50th percentile. The correspondence is attached below at **Annex B**.

No responses have been received to either of these letters.

Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at: Information Commissioner's Office,

Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely

ANNEX A

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: JH/PO/257/25

Liz Kendall MP - Secretary of State for Work and Pensions
Bridget Phillipson MP – Secretary of State for Education
Joint Chairs Child Poverty Taskforce

cc

Child Poverty Secretariat Mailbox childpoverty.secretariat@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

29 May 2024

Dear Chairs,

I was pleased I was able to have the opportunity on the 14 May to raise our priorities here in Wales for the UK Child Poverty Strategy with the Child Poverty Taskforce. I thought it would be useful, following agreement at that meeting that the work of the Four Nations Ministerial Group would be drawn to a conclusion, to write to you to re-state those priorities.

I would also like to note Gordon Brown's submission to the UK Government's Child Poverty Taskforce and his paper "[The Child Poverty Emergency: Reversing the Downward Spiral](#)". I was very interested in a number of his proposals and recommendations.

We are making progress in Wales on issues around child poverty using all the levers we have available to us, in particular for example on the cost of the school day where we have rolled out free school meals to all primary aged children and worked with schools to reduce the costs of school uniform. We are driving forward work to ensure that people can claim what they are entitled to through streamlining and simplifying access to our Welsh Benefits. We are investing in advice services to help the most vulnerable access their entitlements and address the cost-of-living crisis, including support with problem debt.

We recognise that affordable, available and accessible childcare enables parents to work, supporting our drive to tackle poverty and reduce inequalities as well as supporting our economy in Wales. Our Child Poverty strategy prioritises finding affordable solutions to childcare to remove barriers to work and make work pay. Funded childcare makes an important contribution to mitigating the financial pressures that families are currently experiencing in their everyday lives. This is why we invest over £100m a year to deliver

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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.

funded childcare across Wales through the Childcare Offer for Wales and Flying Start programmes.

We heard from our stakeholders during the development of our own recently published Child Poverty Strategy, and during the engagement on the UK Government's strategy, the impact social security policies have on child poverty, particularly the Benefit Cap and Two Child Limit. We believe addressing the benefit cap and two child limit will be the single most effective action the UK Government can take to address child poverty.

Whilst I recognise the fiscal challenges, and that any changes to welfare policy cannot be done in isolation, we need to ensure people, and especially families, are able to meet their essential costs and that the most vulnerable are protected and supported in order to be able to afford the essentials.

We would also call on the UK Government to take a strategic lead on a national benefits take-up campaign, which includes data sharing arrangements to ensure data held nationally or locally is used to identify the people who are missing out on their entitlements. I believe this would significantly improve take-up rates in Wales and across the UK.

The Welsh Government offers a range of employability and skills support programmes to help people into decent, well-paid jobs. This includes national employment and skills programmes and community led approaches. Our Young Person's Guarantee, provides people aged under 25 in Wales with the offer of support to gain a place in education or training, find a job or become self-employed.

We welcome any opportunity to explore and take forward all areas for collaboration. Offering supported employment through the Connect to Work programme is welcomed, and our Trailblazers in Wales will deliver locally led approaches to support people who are economically inactive and facing significant complex barriers to employment.

On temporary accommodation and homelessness, we have seen significant impacts from our 'no-one left out' policy approach supporting Local Authorities with immediate pressures and through long term transformation with record investment in Social Housing. Whilst housing is a devolved issue, decisions on the Local Housing Allowance rate are not. Uplifting the Local Housing Allowance rate to make renting in the Private Rental Sector more affordable is one of, if not the single biggest lever that could be pulled to help relieve and prevent homelessness. We would consider an annual uplift of the LHA set at the 50th percentile to be desirable.

Credit card debt and fuel and energy debt continues to be a significant issue in Wales as I know it is elsewhere in the UK. A social tariff for energy would help to protect those households who are most vulnerable to market instability. We believe it should be possible to fund a social tariff for energy in a progressive way that supports these households without having significant negative impacts on other households. In addition, the financial inclusion work currently being developed by the UK Government should consider the whole banking ecosystem, including ethical lending, with a view to ensuring even those with the most barriers and living in poverty have access to ethical lending products.

I look forward to meeting with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions during the Wales child poverty round table on the 5 June and to continuing our more detailed nation-specific policy discussion as part of the ongoing bi-lateral discussions proposed during the taskforce meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip Cabinet
Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

ANNEX B

Jane Hutt AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: JH/PO/491/2025

Anna McMorris MP
Under Secretary of State for Wales

13 October 2025

Dear Anna

I am writing to offer my personal congratulations on your appointment as Under Secretary of State for Wales. I look forward to working with you and to continuing the constructive working relationship we have developed with your office, particularly on our shared endeavours on tackling child poverty and the work of the Child Poverty Task Force.

As I noted in correspondence of 29 May 2025 to the then joint chairs of the Child Poverty Taskforce, we are making progress in Wales on issues around child poverty using all the levers we have available to us. I met with your predecessor, Dame Nia Griffiths, on a number of occasions through the work of the Taskforce and was able to share our key policy asks around those levers which sit with the UK Government and which would support our efforts here in Wales to tackle child poverty.

We have heard during the development of our own recently published Child Poverty Strategy, and during the engagement on the UK Government's strategy, and continue to hear from our stakeholders that the impact social security policies are having on child poverty, particularly the Benefit Cap and Two Child Limit. We believe addressing the benefit cap and two child limit will be the single most effective action the UK Government can take to address child poverty.

Whilst I recognise the fiscal challenges, and that any changes to welfare policy cannot be done in isolation, we need to ensure people, and especially families, are able to meet their essential costs and that the most vulnerable are protected and supported in order to be able to afford the essentials.

We are also calling on the UK Government to take a strategic lead on a national benefits take-up campaign, which includes data sharing arrangements to ensure data held nationally or locally is used to identify the people who are missing out on their entitlements. I believe this would significantly improve take-up rates in Wales and across the UK.

On temporary accommodation and homelessness, we have seen significant impacts from our 'no-one left out' policy approach, supporting Local Authorities with immediate pressures

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Finally, and on a separate matter, I would also like to take this opportunity to extend an invite to you to attend the Policing Partnership Board for Wales. The Policing Partnership Board for Wales continues to be a valuable forum for taking forward our joint work on the key strategic priorities impacting on the safety of Welsh communities and further strengthening our partnership working to prevent crime and safeguard communities from harm.

Your predecessor attended our April meeting and I would like to invite you to our next meetings, which will be held virtually on the 23 October and the 18 December. An invite has also been extended to the Minister for Policing and Crime, Sarah Jones MP.

This meeting will provide you with the unique opportunity to engage with Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables in Wales, allowing for a joint approach to planning and delivery at both a strategic and operational level which maximises outcomes for the Welsh public.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jane Hutt'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'J'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip Cabinet
Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip