

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/00484/25

Councillor Ioan Thomas  
Chair of the Council

eirianroberts3@gwynedd.llyw.cymru

12 June 2025

Dear Ioan,

Thank you for your letter dated 22 May regarding the UK Government's recent announcements on welfare reforms.

Rest assured that I am in regular contact with UK Government Ministers regarding the proposals in the *Pathways to Work: Reforming Benefits and Support to Get Britain Working* Green Paper. I will continue to highlight the situation in Wales and the potential disproportionate impact on the people of Wales should the reforms to the Personal Independence Payment be implemented as they stand.

Since the publication of the Green Paper, my officers have been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and we have used their Wales-specific data on claimants to draw conclusions on the impact of the proposed welfare reforms in Wales. This will inform a cross-governmental response to the Green Paper, which I will be sending to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. This cross-governmental response will also reflect the opinions of people with lived experiences, including unpaid carers, and will note the matter raised by your constituent of the importance of supporting unpaid carers who care for a person affected by the reforms.

The Green Paper will be on the agenda of the meeting of the four nations' Inter-Ministerial Group on Work and Pensions, which is currently being organised. At this meeting, I will be raising concerns on behalf of the people in Wales directly with Department for Work and Pensions Ministers.

As you have noted, it will be more important than ever that your residents are informed about how they will be affected by the reforms, and that they can access impartial advice to ensure that they claim any money to which they are entitled. Our Single Advice Fund services are available to people who are concerned about their benefit entitlement, and we have invested a further £1.4 million in our projects to maximise income.

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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.

In 2025-26, we intend to allocate more than £173.5m to achieve the aims of our social care policy, in addition to the £70m invested in capital programmes across the social care sector during 2024-25. The main funding for social care comes through the Revenue Support Grant and non-domestic rates, alongside the revenue raised by local authorities by charging for care and support under statutory arrangements, which are overseen by Welsh Government. In 2025-26, local authorities will receive £6.1 billion from Welsh Government in core revenue funding and non-domestic rates to spend on delivering key services. This equates to an increase of 4.3% or £253 million on a like-for-like basis in comparison with 2024-25. This increase reflects our awareness of the reported pressures in social care and demonstrates our willingness to listen and respond to concerns in the sector within the available resources.

We acknowledge the constant substantial financial pressures on the social care sector, generally in terms of maintaining services and specifically in relation to some aspects of our very ambitious agenda for social care policy, and we will continue to work with key partners across the sector to maximise all available funding.

Last of all, Welsh Government acknowledges that it might be helpful if we had more powers over providing social security, however; this must be considered against the financial and legislative requirements. We are currently carrying out research into the devolution of the administration of social security. The research project will help to identify specific reserved elements of the social security system which Welsh Government could realistically administer in line with the principles outlined in the Welsh Benefits Charter, whilst also providing an evidence-based summary of how to proceed with the devolution of these powers. The research will be published at the beginning of 2026.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jane Hutt', is enclosed within a thin black rectangular border. The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip