

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Deputy Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref

Leanne Wood AM
Assembly Member for the Rhondda

29 November 2019

Dear Leanne,

During Oral Assembly Questions in Plenary on 13 November Julie James AM, Minister for Housing and Local Government, in response to your question asking if Welsh Government has conducted an up-to-date assessment as to how much Westminster's social security cuts have cost Welsh public services, made a commitment that I write to you to provide an update on when the timing of publication for the research on the devolved administration of welfare being under taken by the Wales Centre for Public Policy (WCPP).

The WCPP are currently planning for their evidence review to be published in January 2020.

Although the Welsh Government's programme of research on the impact of the UK Government's welfare reforms in Wales has previously considered (in 2013) implications for Welsh public services, our most up-to-date assessment (published in March 2019) has focused on the impact on households in Wales. All outputs from this research can be accessed via the following link: <https://gov.wales/uk-governments-welfare-reforms-effect-wales> Also to mention, we have commissioned Policy in Practice to undertake research on the impact of Universal Credit on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and rent arrears in Wales. This research is currently underway, with the interim report planned to be published on the Welsh Government's website early in the New Year.

The expert Homelessness Action Group, established earlier this year is tasked with answering four key questions to help achieve the goal of ending homelessness in Wales. As you know, the group provided their first report in October this year, which focused on addressing rough sleeping in the short and longer term. The remaining questions focus on ending all forms of homelessness and as such the group is looking at a range of factors which impact on homelessness, including the welfare system. The group will provide their final reports by the end of March 2020.

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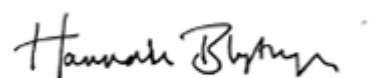
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Hannah Blythyn". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Hannah Blythyn AC/AM

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