

DP 495/03-07

Edwina Hart AM MBE
Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Our ref: OAQ30158 (3)

Leanne Wood AM
National Assembly for Wales
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18 December 2003

Dear Leanne

During Assembly Questions on 3 December 2003, you asked whether any other reviews have been conducted into the Communities First programme within the Assembly or by consultants. I promised that I would check with officials and let you know if any further reviews of Communities First had taken place in addition to the one undertaken by the Deputy Minister, Huw Lewis AM.

Last year the Local Government and Housing Committee undertook a review of community regeneration. The review produced two reports, which outlined 36 recommendations for improving the way that the Assembly looks at Community Regeneration issues. I am due to provide the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee with an update on the progress being made on implementing those recommendations that relate to Communities First.

Officials have informed me that, to date, no other reviews of the programme have been published. However, we have appointed Cambridge Policy Consultants to evaluate the programme over the next three years. On the 21 January 2004, the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee will receive a presentation from Cambridge Policy Consultants on how they propose to undertake the evaluation of the Communities First programme.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Assembly Library.

Edwina Hart



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE