

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Cwnsler Cyffredinol a'r Gweinidog Pontio Ewropeaidd
Counsel General and Minister for European Transition



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

S. G. Milsom,
<https://www.copacharity.com/>

06 November 2020

Dear S. G. Milsom,

Thank you for your letter of 12 October 2020.

Turning to the concerns you raise about the lack of a specific reference to older people in the report *Covid-19 Reconstruction: Issues and Challenges*, the Welsh Government wholeheartedly acknowledges the immense contribution older people make to life in Wales. Older people and the broader issue of intergenerational fairness have been at the heart of all our actions, and I believe that is very clear in the interventions we have made in response to the pandemic and in planning for future recovery. We are very aware of the impact of Coronavirus on older people and we have acted from the first to mitigate those impacts and to keep older people safe, as well as to recognise the positive contribution many older people have made to the response to Coronavirus, and we intend to continue doing so.

I note your concerns that the difficulties older people have faced as a result of Coronavirus are not explicitly mentioned in the document as required by relevant equalities legislation. Older people are in fact mentioned explicitly, though not exhaustively, in the document. There are, as I am sure you have noticed, other groups in society that have not been explicitly referenced in the document also. The significance is not the naming of a group, but the substantive action we are taking to support those groups, including older people.

This support includes, as the document lays out, support for older workers, those older people furthest from the workforce, our commitments on lifelong learning, the planned support for public transport (including on-demand transport), action to improve housing and to tackle fuel poverty, support for the NHS for non-coronavirus conditions, support for other public services and the third sector, initiatives to tackle digital exclusion, the revitalisation of town centre including plans for town centre health and social care facilities. Each of these (and indeed a range of other interventions) will have an important impact in the lives of our older citizens.

More broadly, each one of the eight priorities we have set out has its own relevance for, and will be beneficial to older people.

I know that you will be more focused, as we are, on ensuring we make a reality of these potential benefits for older people rather than how groups are referenced in the document.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

YPCCGB@llyw.cymru PSCGMET@gov.wales

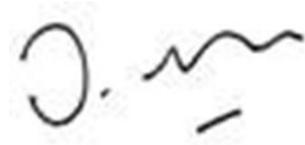
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I want to make it clear that the Welsh Government fully and completely recognises the importance of older people, as we do all people, for their contribution and sacrifice through this difficult time, as well as their contribution more broadly to Wales as a whole.

Our approach to reconstruction will reflect all that we have heard from the range of voices who have participated in our engagement process and the values of economic justice, social justice and environmental justice which guides all our work as a government and which enhances the live of all our citizens in Wales, including, importantly, older people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Miles', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

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