



Eich cyf/Your ref WQ95715 and WQ95716

Mark Isherwood
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

24 February 2024

Dear Mark,

I wrote to you to indicate that I would provide you with a substantive response to WQ95715 and WQ95716:

What plans does the Welsh Government have to develop more robust disaster response policies that ensure the needs and safety of disabled people?

What plans does the Welsh Government have to include disabled people's organisations and disabled people in the consultation processes for disaster response policies to understand the risks disabled people are currently facing?

The primary responsibility of the Welsh Government is to keep the people of Wales safe, and it is vital the systems and process we have in place can support those most in need.

To achieve this, we remain focussed on supporting the emergency responder community by setting the strategy and driving a joined-up approach to enhance Wales's resilience and preparedness to major disruptive challenges and national crises.

To provide a clear strategic direction for resilience in Wales, the Welsh Government is developing, with local and government partners, a new Wales Resilience Framework, which will be published later in the spring. Supported by a delivery plan, which will be kept under continuous review, the Framework will reaffirm the Welsh Government's strategic approach to resilience in Wales and reflect the importance of our values: community, equality, social justice and partnership.

We are already taking action in a number of areas, most notably in improving our understanding of civil contingencies risks in Wales. Over the last two years, work has been undertaken to create a suite of risk evidence documents to provide an improved risk evidence base for Welsh responders and the Welsh Government. This includes completion of a bespoke risk register, which draws upon the UK National Security Risk Assessment

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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.

data and which, through working directly with Wales's four Local Resilience Forums, has enabled us to better account for the impact of the full range of risks on different communities across Wales.

These new products have been designed specifically to complement work being undertaken by Wales' Local Resilience Forums, including the statutory requirements which are placed on Category 1 responders, through the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, to update and maintain Community Risk Registers. We are clear in our expectation that all Category 1 responders comply fully with the duties set out in the Act, and this includes full consideration of the needs of their communities, including vulnerable individuals, in their emergency planning processes.

A key learning from the pandemic was the importance of data to support our understanding of the impact of emergencies on the most vulnerable in our communities. Work is underway to improve access to reliable data for civil emergencies. This includes improving how data is collected, analysed and shared in response to emergencies. Improving the use and sharing of data will support a better understanding of how different groups and communities are affected by emergencies and provide our partners in the responder community with clearer information to improve emergency planning processes.

Improving our resilience and ensuring those most in need are supported appropriately requires all partners and interested parties working collaboratively - including local authorities, emergency services and the voluntary and community sectors. The work of the Disability Rights Taskforce has demonstrated Welsh Government's commitment to listening to and collaborating with disabled people, as well as disabled people's organisations. We will be undertaking further work to identify how best to enhance community and societal resilience, going forward, and will ensure the invaluable lived experiences of disabled people help to shape our future activities.

Eluned Morgan