

Jane Hutt AC/AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip  
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH-//19

Mark Isherwood AM

11 November 2019

Dear Mark,

I am writing in response to points you raised during Business Questions on 1 October.

With regards to the issues raised about autism services, the All Party Parliamentary Group on autism in England have published their report on the *Autism Act 10 years on*. This report demonstrates that the UK government has not made the progress anticipated when the Act was introduced. Many of the recommendations made in this report reflect the actions we are already taking in Wales to introduce specialist autism services, improve training and to monitor service delivery. This includes emergency service training, training for Jobcentre staff and Integrated Autism Service (IAS) specialist teams in place in every region.

I understand that you wrote to Julie James AM, Minister for Housing & Local Government on 8 October repeating the points made during Business Questions about the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) and their report 'Act to Adapt'. I understand the Minister replied to you on 24 October confirming she had been sent a copy of the Act to Adapt report and acknowledged that people with motor neurone disease should secure adaptations to their homes quickly and easily to ensure that they can live safely, independently and with dignity.

The Minister's response also highlighted the publication of the Welsh Government's [Housing adaptations: standards of service](#), which set out the level of service individuals can expect from the delivery and installation of a housing adaptation, regardless of where they live and the tenure of their home.

Welsh Government officials are scheduled to meet with representatives of the MNDA in the coming weeks to obtain a better understanding of the findings of the report and the scale of the difficulties faced by people with motor neurone disease. I understand the Minister for Housing and Local Government has committed to write to you following the outcome of the discussions between officials and MNDA representatives.

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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.

You asked about updating the Social Services & Wellbeing Act. Officials are currently considering if specific changes are needed to the Part 2 Code of Practice as a result of the new 'Action on Disability' framework and will amend the code at the next available opportunity. Officials will do this alongside a review of other areas of the code and will work closely with stakeholders in doing so.

Your final point related to a national charter for British Sign Language. We have committed to working with local authorities and other partners to develop a charter for delivery of services and resources to D/deaf children, young people and their families. We envisage that such a charter would provide the basis for a range of work being undertaken by the Welsh Government and other bodies, to understand the current provision of support for D/deaf and hearing impaired children and the good practice guidance and standards being developed on D/deaf hearing loss to support the implementation of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014. The charter would need to be broad and flexible enough to reflect changing circumstances and future developments.

We are currently in the early stages of establishing what the charter might look like and how it could be delivered. You will appreciate that it is too early to share details of a firm proposal at this stage. The point you raise regarding the British Deaf Association's (BDA) Charter is duly noted and I have asked my officials to contact them to explore this in more detail.

Yours sincerely,  
Jane

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