



Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ95144

Andrew RT Davies MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central
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11 February 2025

Dear Andrew,

I write further to your Written Question requesting: 'What steps is the Welsh Government taking to ensure that public toilets are open and accessible to all users?' (WQ95144)

Local authorities have the power to provide toilets for public use but not a statutory duty to do so. Local authorities take decisions on services and their budgets in the context of the breadth of their responsibilities and are accountable to their populations for the decisions they take.

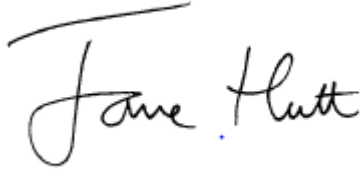
The Welsh Government recognises the difficulties local authorities have in maintaining traditional public toilets but also acknowledges that access to safe, clean toilet facilities is important to the public. To deliver a strategic approach to the provision of toilets across Wales, the [Public Health \(Wales\) Act 2017](#) requires each local authority to produce, publish and regularly review a local toilets strategy for its area. Comprehensive [statutory guidance](#) has been produced to help local authorities develop their strategies.

The aim is to ensure each local authority assesses the needs of its community in relation to toilets, and then takes a strategic and transparent approach to best meet that need. A key intention is to make better use of existing toilet facilities across both public and private sector ownership, given the financial challenges of providing and maintaining traditional public toilets. To assist with sustainability, the Welsh Government has worked with the UK Government to ensure that standalone public toilets in Wales now receive 100% relief from business rates.

In the context of the ongoing challenging financial climate, it is more important than ever to encourage creative solutions to better meet the public's need for access to suitable toilet facilities and to have strategies that are built around the principles of co-production.

I expect local authorities to continue to take every opportunity to talk to the public and representative groups about the challenges they face in accessing local toilet facilities and to a broad range of potential providers to deliver sustainable solutions.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a distinct 'H'.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip