

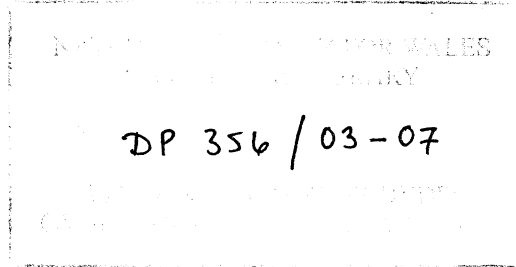
Sue Essex AM

Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services
Y Gweinidog dros Gyllid, Llywodraeth Leol a Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Our ref: SF/SE/5010/03
Your ref:



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03 July 03

Dear Anur

During the Plenary debate on the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2003, held on 4 March 2003, Janet Ryder AM asked the then Minister for Finance, Local Government and the Communities what could be done to further advertise the new Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit.

Tax credits are the responsibility of the Inland Revenue and as such the publicity campaign in relation to their availability was conducted at a national level. The then Minister wrote to the then Chair of the Local Government and Housing Committee informing them of her intention to write to Peter Hain MP, the Secretary of State for Wales, asking him to make enquiries into the publicity campaign adopted by the Inland Revenue.

There have been adverts on television, radio and in the press along with a poster and leaflet campaign. In the summer of 2002 the Inland Revenue wrote to all of those receiving the old tax credits and invited them to apply for the new tax credits, following this up with reminder leaflets later in the year.

Those who were not in receipt of the old tax credits were encouraged to apply for the new tax credits and information on them was sent to over 4,000 interested groups, including welfare rights organisations and advice centres, to enable them to advise their clients. The Inland Revenue has also made a policy of ensuring that those on Income Support or income-based Jobseekers's Allowance automatically receive the full Child Tax Credit.



Given the extent of the advertising campaign undertaken by the Inland Revenue and the fact that the new tax credits are now in place, I do not feel that it is necessary for the Welsh Assembly Government to undertake a separate campaign.

As the query was made during a Plenary debate, I will be placing a copy of this letter in the Assembly Members Library for reference.

Best wishes

Jue