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Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip  
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA - P/JH-/2604/19

Mohammad Asghar AM

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Dear Mohammad Asghar,

I am writing in response to your question regarding transgender hate crime to the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd during Business Questions on 2 July.

The Welsh Government is committed to protecting and supporting victims of transgender hate crime, and any increase in such crimes is very concerning. We believe this increase is partly due to improved recording by the Police, using the appropriate "hate crime flags" to track these crimes in their systems. We recognise that another factor could be increased confidence in victims reporting hate crimes as a significant amount of work has taken place in Wales to increase awareness and the confidence of victims to come forward and report issues.

Since 2014 the Welsh Government has provided funding to Victim Support Cymru to operate the National Hate Crime Report and Support Centre. This has helped to create a reporting system across Wales which provides an initial point of contact for victims and provides advocacy, support and signposting. The Welsh Government continues to work with the Hate Crime Criminal Justice Board Cymru to encourage the reporting of transgender hate crime and to ensure these crimes are dealt with sensitively and appropriately.

However, we recognise that this increase in transgender hate crime is alarming and we must continue to work with key partners, including Police Forces, the third sector, and the UK Government, to address this issue. The First Minister's manifesto included the proposal to 'press the UK government to recognise LGBT+ hate crime as an aggravated offence (in line with race and faith hate crime).' We continue to monitor the UK Government's position on this issue, as well as the Law Commission's ongoing review into hate crime legislation in the UK. The Law Commission is reviewing the adequacy and parity of protection offered by the law relating to hate crime and will make recommendations for its reform. The Commission is expected to publish its recommendations in 2020.

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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.

In regards to tackling transphobic incidents in schools, the Welsh Government is currently updating its anti-bullying guidance 'Respecting Others.' Updates will be based on the findings of extensive engagement and consultation with key stakeholders, including schools, children, local government and the police. These findings are informing the revised guidance, ensuring it is user friendly and provides practical support to schools. We continue to work closely with key stakeholders to ensure the revised guidance, which will be published later this year, has the maximum impact possible. We have also published online lesson plans for schools on gender-based bullying, including transgender-based bullying. These are aimed at Key Stages 3 and 4, and are available on the Welsh Government website.

The Welsh Government's Equality and Inclusion Programme 2017-2020 is funding Stonewall Cymru to implement a range of projects to deliver improvements to the well-being, socio-economic potential, fair treatment and community safety of Wales' LGBT+ people. This includes the delivery of peer-led training to teachers, school staff and governors on LGBT+ issues and tackling homophobic, biphobic and transphobic bullying.

It is vital that the voices of transgender people are heard and represented in Wales, and our Equality and Inclusion Programme is funding £30,000 per year specifically for a Trans Engagement Officer post with Stonewall Cymru. This role is responsible for engaging with trans communities at a grassroots level across Wales and helps to inform Stonewall Cymru's work, ensuring a full representation of the diversity within trans communities.

I have also written to the Home Office to urge them to recognise LGBT+ hate crime as an aggravated offence in line with race and faith hate crime; affirming that the Welsh Government is committed to protecting and supporting victims of LGBT+ hate crime.

*Beet Hutt*,  
*Jane*

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