

Concise Minutes – Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee

Meeting Venue:

Video Conference via Zoom

Meeting date: Thursday, 25 February 2021

Meeting time: 13.00 – 16.58

This meeting can be viewed

on [Senedd TV](#) at:

<http://senedd.tv/en/11086>

Attendance

Category	Names
Members of the Senedd:	John Griffiths MS (Chair) Dawn Bowden MS Delyth Jewell MS Laura Anne Jones MS Mandy Jones MS
Witnesses:	Bob Mason, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Sion Slaymaker, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Owen Jayne, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service Paul Edwards, NHBC Peter Richards, LABC, Cymru Andrew Thomas, RICS Jason Clarke, Warwick Estates Nigel Glen, Association of Residential Managing Agents Mark Snelling, ARMA



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament

Committee Staff:	Catherine Hunt (Second Clerk) Naomi Stocks (Clerk) Chloe Davies (Deputy Clerk) Jonathan Baxter (Researcher) Stephen Davies (Legal Adviser)
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1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Members to the meeting of the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee. Apologies for absence were received from Huw Irranca-Davies MS.
- 1.2. Mandy Jones MS and Laura Anne Jones MS declared relevant interests.
- 1.3. In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair stated that he had determined that the public were excluded from the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health.
- 1.4. The Chair stated that if for any reason he dropped out of the meeting, the Committee agreed that Dawn Bowden MS would become Temporary Chair in accordance with Standing Order 17.22.

2 Inquiry into fire safety in high rise blocks in Wales (Welsh Government white paper – Safer Buildings in Wales: A Consultation): evidence session 1

2.1. The Committee received evidence from

- Owen Jayne, Group Manager, Head of Business Fire Safety, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service

- Siôn Slaymaker, Group Manager, Head of Business Fire Safety, Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service
- Bob Mason, Head of Business Fire Safety, North Wales Fire and Rescue Service

3 Inquiry into fire safety in high rise blocks in Wales (Welsh Government white paper – Safer Buildings in Wales: A Consultation): evidence session 2

3.1. The Committee received evidence from

- Paul Edwards, Senior Regional Director, NHBC
- Peter Richards, Chair, Local Authority Building Control Cymru
- Andrew Thomas, Senior Building Control officer, Fire Safety working Group, Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors

4 Inquiry into fire safety in high rise blocks in Wales (Welsh Government white paper – Safer Buildings in Wales: A Consultation): evidence session 3

4.1. The Committee received evidence from:

- Jason Clarke, Head of Risk Management, Warwick Estates
- Nigel Glen, Chief Executive Officer, ARMA
- Mark Snelling, Health, Safety and Fire Advisor, ARMA

5 Paper(s) to note

5.1 Letter from the Chair of the Petitions Committee in relation to fire safety in high rise buildings

5.1.a The Committee noted the letter from the Chair of the Petitions Committee in relation to fire safety in high rise buildings.

5.2 Report from the Bevan Foundation "Different experiences of poverty in Winter 2020" in relation to the impact of COVID-19

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5.3 Report from the British Red Cross "The longest year" in relation to the impact of COVID-19

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5.4 Letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in relation to the impact of COVID-19 and rough sleeping

5.4.a The Committee noted the letter from the Minister for Housing and Local Government in relation to the impact of COVID-19 and rough sleeping.

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting and from the meeting on 4 March 2021

6.1 The Committee agreed the motion.

7 Inquiry into fire safety in high rise blocks in Wales (Welsh Government white paper – Safer Buildings in Wales: A Consultation): discussion of the evidence received

7.1. The Committee discussed the evidence received under items 2, 3 and 4.

8 Discussion of the Committee's legacy report

8.1. The Committee discussed its legacy report.