



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair
Equality and Social Justice Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

23 August 2022

Dear Jenny,

Thank you for your letter of 22 July in which you asked for further information on the monitoring of data in relation to mental health provision for migrant women. I welcome the opportunity to provide further information in support of your inquiry into Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence impacting migrant women.

In January 2022, The Welsh Government established three Evidence Units, each with their own evidence programme and lead:

- Equality Evidence Unit
- Race Disparity Evidence Unit
- Disability Disparity Evidence Unit

The Units will work together as the Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units with an overarching Equality Evidence Strategy to ensure synergy, effectiveness, efficiency and cohesion. The Equality Evidence Unit will work with colleagues responsible for Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV) policy as well as other Welsh Government analysts who have a role in this area.

The mission of the units is to improve the availability, quality, granularity and accessibility of evidence about individuals with protected and associated characteristics so that we fully understand the level and types of inequalities across Wales. This will enable decision makers to develop better informed policies and to assess and measure their impact. This will drive us towards better outcomes for people with protected and associated characteristics and contribute to our goal of 'a more equal Wales' as set out in the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

The units have developed an Equality Evidence Strategy which describes the scope, remit and plans and aim to publish this in September 2022. Priorities for each unit are being developed with stakeholders based on commitments already made and emerging requirements from the Anti-Racist Wales action Plan, Advancing Gender Equality, LGBTQ+ Action Plan and the Disability Rights Taskforce. These will also be published in September alongside the strategy.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

One of the initial tasks of the units is to carry out an evidence audit that will provide an understanding of the information that is available and the gaps and inconsistencies which need to be addressed. The audit will include existing sources of data which inform VAWDASV policy. Once gaps have been identified these will be prioritised with stakeholders for resolving.

The [Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan](#) includes a chapter on 'Crime and Justice, including Hate Crime' which covers Violence Against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. One of the actions in the plan in this chapter is to raise awareness of the Welsh Government's Race Disparity Evidence Unit with criminal justice partners in Wales, and identify how best to help all partners to improve the evidence available on racial disparity within the justice system in Wales and use this to support better policy decisions and monitoring.

Identifying the gaps in evidence relating to ethnicity and race, including criminal justice data, is one of the first priorities of the Race Disparity Evidence Unit. This will be done via an audit of data collections held and outputs produced by the Welsh Government and the wider public and third sector. Building on this initial assessment, the unit will take forward a programme of work to improve the evidence base including ongoing engagement with ethnic minority people to improve their knowledge and trust in how their data will be used to increase their confidence to share data.

The ONS publishes data on domestic abuse at [Domestic abuse prevalence and victim characteristics - Office for National Statistics \(ons.gov.uk\)](#). The latest version of the data was released in November 2021 and does not include an ethnicity breakdown due to COVID impact. There are ethnicity breakdowns for victims for the 2020 dataset on the same link.

The work to audit the quality of the routinely collected data is at an early stage and it is therefore not possible to answer all your questions at this time. However, the aim is to collate and refine this data to be able to answer these kinds of questions in the future in order to support strategic development of services and to influence policy making.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Health and Social Services