



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-JH-3575-20

To:

Health, Social Care and Sport Committee,
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee,
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee,
Finance Committee, and
Climate Change, Environment and Rural Affairs Committee.

25 November 2020

Dear Committee Chair,

In his Oral Statement to Plenary on 15 July, the First Minister announced that the Socio-economic Duty ("the Duty") was one of five areas confirmed in the Legislative Programme for delivery before the end of this Senedd term. Subsequently on 16 July I confirmed via a Written Statement that the Duty would come into force of 31 March 2021.

Commencing Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010, the Duty, will require specified public bodies, including the Welsh Ministers, when making strategic decisions such as deciding priorities and setting objectives, to consider how their decisions might help to reduce socio-economic disadvantage.

The scope of the Welsh Minister's powers to capture Welsh public bodies by the Duty is determined by a 'test' in section 2(6) of the Equality Act 2010. Based upon this, I envisage the following Welsh public bodies will be specified in the Regulations:

- Welsh Ministers;
- Local Health Boards, NHS Trusts and Special Health Authorities;
- Local Authorities;
- Fire and Rescue Authorities;
- Welsh Revenue Authority; and
- National Park Authorities.

I recognise the pressures Senedd Committee timetables are under between now and the end of this Senedd term. I am therefore writing to offer your Committee, as one which will have interest in the Duty the opportunity of a technical briefing ahead of me laying the

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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.

Regulations in the Senedd on 9 February 2021. This would provide you and Committee Members with an opportunity to understand the legislative framework and principles behind the Duty. If you would find this helpful, I would be grateful if your Committee Clerk could contact the Legislative Programme and Governance Unit to make arrangements.

For further information on the Duty, including interim non-statutory guidance, please see the Welsh Government [website](#).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane', with a horizontal line above it.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

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