

Jane Hutt AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/051111/19

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
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12th March 2019

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 February regarding the Petitions Committee - P-05-871 Make baby and toddler changing available in both male/female toilets.

In order to improve access to toilets for all but in particular those with greatest need, the Public Health (Wales) Act 2017 Part 8 ('the Act') requires every local authority in Wales to develop a local toilets strategy. These strategies should be developed following consultation with their local communities and other delivery partners and should set out their population's needs, the existing publically accessible toilet facilities in their area and how they plan to improve access to toilets by making the best use of existing facilities in both public and private sector ownership. It is within the provision of the Act that the definition of toilets includes baby change facilities and Changing Places facilities for disabled persons.

Local toilet strategies need to be in place by 31 May 2019 and each local authority is responsible for publishing and publicising its own strategy and for putting any identified actions into place. The provisions of the Act do not require local authorities or other delivery partners to provide toilet facilities nor does the provision prevent local authorities from making a decision to close a traditional public toilet or building when appropriate to do so. Instead, the intended effect is to improve the planning of provision so that alternative provisions to the traditional public toilet are sought within communities and that any decisions are taken within the overall context of meeting their communities' identified needs.

The Welsh Government has produced statutory guidance for local authorities on the issues they should consider when developing their local toilets strategies. This includes consideration of the needs of parents of young children and consideration of toilet provision

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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 future refurbishments and new builds. This guidance is available via the Welsh Government website.

<https://gov.wales/topics/health/nhswales/act/publictoilets/?lang=en>

Building Regulations set no requirements (for new build or refurbishment) for toilet or baby changing provision but sets design standards where these facilities are to be provided.

Where baby changing provision is intended the statutory guidance and related British Standard recommends it should be accessible and not be in unisex toilets.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jane Hutt AC/AM

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