

Russell George MS
Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

1 April 2022

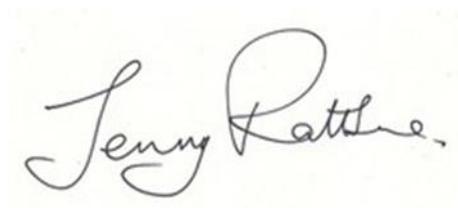
Dear Russell

Role of health boards in safeguarding women and children who may be experiencing domestic abuse

Thank you for your letter of 18 February in relation to our proposed inquiry into violence against women, domestic abuse and sexual violence (VAWDASV) and in particular your comments regarding the role of health boards in safeguarding women and children who may be experiencing or at risk of domestic abuse.

As you are aware, we held a roundtable discussion with stakeholders on 14 March 2022 in order to inform our approach to this work. Following this session, and as a result of the feedback we received, we have agreed to take forward our work in two stages: first, we have launched a short **inquiry** into VAWDASV – looking specifically at the experiences of migrant women, which we will carry out over the summer term; and second, we will revisit the broader piece of work once the Welsh Government has published its new VAWDASV strategy, expected in April 2022, to consider where we can have best impact and to allow time for meaningful engagement with women with lived experience. Your comments on the role of health boards will feed in to this latter piece of work, and we will keep you informed of any outcomes. Should you or Members of your Committee wish to be involved in any of this work then I would be happy to explore opportunities to do so.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee