

Jane Hutt MS
Minister for Social Justice

2 November 2022

Dear Jane

Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units: priorities for 2022 to 2027

We welcome the recent publication of the priorities for the Equality, Race and Disability Evidence Units, in particular the commitment to explore the feasibility of collating and publishing annual data on debt in Wales. However, there are two areas on which we would welcome further information:

Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (VAWDASV)

On Monday 17 October we held an informative scrutiny session with the National Advisers for VAWDASV. We note that two of the priorities relate specifically to VAWDASV. The Advisers told us that they have yet to input into the work of the new Data Units, but noted that in terms of protected characteristics, there is a lack of rich data available. We would therefore be grateful if you could set out what plans are in place to monitor data in relation to implementation of the Violence against Women, Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence (Wales) Act 2015 and how this will link to the work being carried out by the Data Units. In particular, we would be grateful if you could outline what plans there are to involve the National Advisers and how and when co-production with survivors will be used.

Childcare sector

You may recall that Recommendation 8 of our **report on childcare** called on the Welsh Government to set out its plans for the "new race disparity unit to build an evidence base around the level of ethnic minority representation in the childcare workforce". In **response**, the Welsh Government stated: "We will work with the Race Disparity Unit to identify an evidence base for the childcare sector in order to better understand the current profile of the workforce and to be able to measure future progress", however this does not seem to have been included in the priorities for the Units. We would therefore be grateful if you could set out when you expect this work to take place.

I am copying this letter to the Deputy Minister for Social Services.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light yellow rectangular background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Jenny Rathbone".

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair, Equality and Social Justice Committee

