

Rebecca Evans AC/AM
Gweinidog Iechyd y Cyhoedd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Minister for Social Services and Public Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-L/RE/0144/17

Huw Irranca-Davies AM
Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel,
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

10 March 2017

Dear Huw,

Public Health (Wales) Bill

Thank you once again for your Committee's consideration of the Public Health (Wales) Bill during Stage 1. I confirmed during the general principles debate on the Bill on 28 February that I would write to the Committee to provide a formal response to its report.

While I recognise the intention behind the sole recommendation in the Committee's report, I am unable to respond by amending the Bill in the specific way the Committee recommends. Local authorities are already bound by and are very familiar with their obligations under section 6 of the Human Rights Act 1998. They are therefore well versed in the duties placed upon them. In view of this I believe it would be unnecessary and inappropriate to add specific provision on the face of the Bill, and could unintentionally lead to confusion if such a provision was included in this Bill and not in other legislation.

However, in response to a previous request by the Committee in relation to Part 2 of the Bill, I intend to bring forward an amendment at Stage 2 to state on the face of the Bill that only specific public authorities will be the enforcement authorities. This will also ensure that enforcement authorities will only be those which already must act in line with their obligations under human rights legislation. I hope this will provide general reassurance to the Committee on this issue.

I trust the Committee will be content with this approach.

I am copying this letter to Dr. Dai Lloyd AM, Chair of the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee.

Kind regards,

Rebecca Evans AC / AM

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Minister for Social Services and Public Health

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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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.