

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-397
Ein cyf/Our ref LA -/00816/15

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

15 December 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 4 December regarding information about the Workforce Partnership Council (WPC) and 'Petition P-04-0397' relating to a Living Wage, including a copy of recent correspondence from Save the Children.

The WPC brings together public service employers, trade unions and the Welsh Government in social partnership. The WPC acts as a forum for discussion and considers current public service workforce issues. It includes employer representatives from the NHS, Local Government, Fire and Rescue Services, Welsh Government Sponsored Bodies (WGSBs), Further and Higher Education alongside representatives of public service trade unions. The WPC Joint Secretaries, drawn from the trade union group and the employer group, are currently Alison Ward, Chief Executive of Torfaen County Borough Council for the employers, and Julie Cook, National Officer of the Wales TUC for the trade unions.

The most recent meeting took place on 10 December, at which I updated the WPC on progress with the Living Wage. I was pleased to report that as of 2 November, the Welsh Government is an accredited Living Wage employer. The Welsh Government pays all directly employed staff (with the exception of apprentices) the Living Wage and is committed to explore what we can do through our tendering and procurement practices as current contracts for on-site services expire. This reflects a 'Phased Implementation' accreditation approach as developed by the Living Wage Foundation.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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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.

More broadly, adoption of the Living Wage is progressing across public services in Wales. For example, several Local Authorities have adopted the Living Wage, it has been introduced in Health, all WGSBs either pay their employees the Living Wage or are seeking to do so and progress is being made in Further and Higher Education. Specific further work is underway to consider practical issues around Local Authorities in Wales adopting the Living Wage on a consistent basis. The Welsh Government continues to encourage all employers in Wales to adopt the Living Wage.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leighton Andrews', written in a cursive style.

Leighton Andrews AC / AM

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