Jane Hutt AC / AM Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty Minister for Finance and Leader of the House



William Powell AM Chair, Petitions Committee Cardiff Bay Cardiff CF99 1NA

50 January 2012

Dear William,

I am writing in response to the 653 signatures received to the Petitions Committee on learning disability hate crime in Wales.

I fully recognise and support the petition. Incidents of hate crime are shocking and unacceptable. There has been emerging evidence available in terms of disability related harassment and hate crime from MENCAPs Living in Fear report and the recent Equality and Human Rights Inquiry. This highlights the need to take forward work throughout Wales and I am committed for the Welsh Government to take a strong lead in this area.

I am shortly going to outline the future direction in Wales within my response to the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committees recommendations for the Welsh Government to take forward. This will highlight the future direction, including the need to tackle negative cultural views and to ensure that a joined up partnership approach can drive forward actions in the future.

I want Wales to take the lead to ensure that we live in a society where hate crime is not tolerated, so that people feel free to live within safe and vibrant communities.

Yours sincerely

Jane Hutt AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Cyllid ac Arweinydd y Ty Minister for Finance and Leader of the House CC Minister for Education and Skills Minister for Local Government and Communities