



1. A brief overview of the history, legal status and aims of the organisation or body. Please explain whether the work of the organisation or body is UK wide, or is instead confined to Wales only.

Established in 1995, Bawso is an all Wales charity that supports people from Black and Ethnic Minority backgrounds who are affected by domestic abuse and other forms of abuse, including Female Genital Mutilation, Forced Marriage, Human Trafficking.

Bawso currently runs 25 projects supporting over 6,000 people every year in Wales through the provision of purpose built refuges, safe houses, and an extensive Outreach & Resettlement Programme and Floating Support Programme. We provide support, advice and information from our offices in Cardiff, Merthyr Tydfil, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham. The work that Bawso does is confined to Wales only.

2. A brief description of the group(s) which the organisation or body supports or represents.

Groups supported by Bawso are:

BAME

Gypsy and travelers

Eastern European

Asylum seekers

Refugees

3. A brief overview of the work of the organisation or body in supporting or representing the relevant group(s) between January 2020 and May 2022 as it relates to the response to Covid-19 of (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government.

- raising awareness on the pandemic in different languages
- providing safe places for victims
- ensuring that people from the communities we serve understood government guidance and legislation
- ensuring that those that were most vulnerable received money and food
- ensuring that those that relied on Bawso for subsistence funding received it on time
- ensuring that all of Bawso's accommodation based services were following government procedure for cleaning
- Bawso sought more funding to ensure that the needs of all their service users were met

- Bawso ensure that staff were safe and that arrangements and facilities to work online from home were provided
- Bawso provided counselling to those that needed it most
- Bawso ensured that people with No Recourse to public funds, and other immigration restriction received the help that was availed to them through the homeless sector
- Bawso helped to give information on the issues faced by BAME people in Wales and how they had been affected by covid-19.

4. A list of any articles or reports the organisation or body has published or contributed to, and/or evidence it has given (for example to UK Parliament or Senedd Select Committees) regarding the impact on the group(s) which the organisation or body supports or represents of the response to Covid-19 by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government. Please include links to those documents where possible.

N/A

5. The view of the organisation or body as to whether the group(s) it supports or represents was adequately considered when decisions about the response to Covid-19 were made by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government. Please also explain the reasons for the view expressed by the organisation or body in this respect.

- Once it became clear that the BAME people were more like to die from covid-19 as compared to other community groups, the UK government provided more support to this group of people that we support
- Both UK and Welsh governments ensured that all people, including those with NRPF who the most represented group in the cohort of people are that we support, were entitled to housing- noone was sent away when they presented themselves to homelessness departments within local authorities.

6. Whether the organisation or body raised any concerns about the consideration being given to the group(s) which it supports or represents with (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government, when those governments were making decisions about their response to Covid-19. Please provide a list of any such correspondence or meetings with (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government, including the dates on which the body or organisation wrote or such meetings were held, to whom the correspondence was addressed or with whom the meeting was held, and any response received from the UK Government or the Welsh Government addressing such concerns.

N/A

7. A brief summary of the views of the organisation or body as to any lessons, if any, that can be learned from any consideration which was given to the group(s) that the organisation or body supports or represents by (i) the UK Government; and/or (ii) the Welsh Government when they were making decisions about their response to Covid-19

- The consideration to ensure everyone is supported with accommodation/housing, including those with no recourse to public funds is a decision that can be carried forward. Other decisions that were helpful and that could be continued are:
  - Furlough scheme was very helpful in that no workers lost their jobs
  - the uplift of universal credit by £20 was very useful to the unemployed
  - the kickstart/restart schemes for young people
  - business grants available
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