



Dame Shan Morgan DCMG,

Permanent Secretary

By email

[PS.PermanentSecretary@gov.wales](mailto:PS.PermanentSecretary@gov.wales)

Thursday 25 February 2021

Dear Permanent Secretary,

**Subject: Welsh Government Public Sector Equality Duty**

Thank you for your response to my letter of 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 in relation to equality impact assessments ("EIA").

We have now seen an EIA in relation to the original Alert Level 4 restrictions but there are no published EIAs for the amendments made since 20 December 2020. It is important that EIAs are prepared and published so that we (and others) can see how the impact on groups with protected characteristics have been considered.

As you know, undertaking EIAs before decisions are made can lead to better

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Bydd y Comisiwn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg.

The Commission welcomes correspondence in Welsh or English.

**Ff/T:** Irrelevant & Sensitive

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decision making. The amendments to level 4 restrictions that you've made show that when you have considered the impact, different decisions are then made.

I note you have recently published a "Coronavirus Control Plan: alert levels in Wales (coming out of lockdown)" which sets out various priorities for lifting restrictions. As you have confirmed there will be no further changes for 3 weeks, Please can you confirm what plans you have to engage with groups with protected characteristics, so that you are able to analyse equality data, prepare and publish an EIA on the priorities.

The First Minister was clear in his briefing on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021, that lessons had been learnt from lifting the restrictions last summer, but that now there are different factors to consider, different priorities have been identified. When considering the equality impact of lifting restrictions, you may find our previous [submissions](#) to the Senedd Committees on their inquiries into the impact of COVID-19 helpful as these identify the most significant inequalities. You can then consider how to have due regard to eliminating discrimination, advancing opportunity and fostering good relations.

We were due to meet to discuss and I am happy to discuss this matter further or

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Human Rights  
Commission

to meet with you if you would find it helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Personal Data

Rev Ruth Coombs  
Head of Wales  
EHRC Wales | EHRC Cymru

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