

Dyddiad /Date:
Gofynnwch am/Please ask for:
Llinell uniongyrchol/Direct line:
Ebost/Email:

13th June 2018
Daniel Hurford
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John Griffiths AM
Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Dear John,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding your Committee's inquiry into diversity in local government.

The WLGA encourages greater participation and diversity in local democracy and supported the Welsh Government's Diversity in Democracy campaign ahead of the last elections. Progress however remains disappointingly slow. Despite having the greatest number of women leaders and deputy leaders ever after last year's election, at 4 and 6 respectively, this is far from gender balanced and council chambers unfortunately still do not adequately reflect the diversity of society and the communities they serve.

You will not be surprised that as the first woman leader of the WLGA, I have made improving diversity in council chambers a top priority; Diversity in Democracy was a key theme in our Annual Conference last year and we are working with partners in the Women's Equality Network and the Electoral Reform Society, amongst others, to try to stimulate wider interest in and engagement with the local democratic and political process.

As you will be aware, there is much interest and activity in this area of work already and I know my officials have been supporting Committee staff in their preparations for the Inquiry to maximise dialogue and engagement with councillors and authorities across Wales.

I therefore look forward to contributing to the Committee's Inquiry and working with local authority and Assembly colleagues from across the political spectrum to seek a step change in the diversity of councillors at the next local government elections.

Yours sincerely,

Councillor Debbie Wilcox
Leader, Welsh Local Government Association

Steve Thomas CBE
Prif Weithredwr
Chief Executive

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**Croesawn ohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg a byddwn yn ymateb i ohebiaeth yn yr un iaith.
Ni fydd defnyddio'r naill iaith na'r llall yn arwain at oedi.**

**We welcome correspondence in Welsh and English and will respond to correspondence in the same language.
Use of either language will not lead to a delay.**