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Direct line/Llinell uniongyrchol:
Email/Ebost:

11th June 2013
Naomi Alleyne
029 20468660
naomi.alleyne@wlga.gov.uk



WLGA • CLILC

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff CF99 1NA

RECEIVED

18 JUN 2013

Dear Christine,

I was disappointed to hear discussions at the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee on 5th June regarding the non attendance of representatives from the WLGA and NHS CEHR as part of the Committee's inquiry into the future of equality and human rights in Wales. I would like to put the record straight and ensure that Committee members are aware of the correct situation.

As noted by the committee, the WLGA and NHS CEHR chose to submit joint evidence in recognition of the close links between our two organisations and the similar ways in which local government and health bodies are affected by equality legislation. In keeping with this, both organisations would have valued the opportunity to attend the committee to provide joint oral evidence. However, the invitation to attend the committee meeting was only extended to the NHS CEHR. When this was queried with the committee clerk, the WLGA were informed that the committee were interested in a health perspective. The WLGA were respectful of the committee's preference and subsequently offered any further information or assistance that may be required. None was requested.

I also wish to reiterate that the fact the WLGA was not present is absolutely no reflection of the value we place on equality and human rights issues and indeed the written evidence submitted and the examples included highlights the positive nature of our evidence. The evidence sets out how local government and health are advancing equality through their services and demonstrates our commitment to furthering this agenda. I hope this message is not lost as a result of the lack of representation at committee.

I would be grateful if this letter could be shared with members of the Committee as the WLGA feels that this fact should have been highlighted at the committee.

Yours sincerely

Steve Thomas CBE
Chief Executive

Steve Thomas CBE
Chief Executive
Prif Weithredwr

Welsh Local Government
Association
Local Government House
Drake Walk
CARDIFF CF10 4LG
Tel: 029 2046 8600
Fax: 029 2046 8601

Cymdeithas Llywodraeth
Leol Cymru
Tŷ Llywodraeth Leol
Rhodfa Drake
CAERDYDD CF10 4LG
Ffôn: 029 2046 8600
Ffacs: 029 2046 8601

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