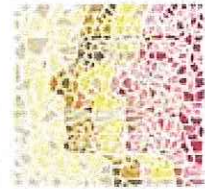


The NHS Centre for Equality and Human Rights

Canolfan y GIG ar gyfer Cydraddoldeb a Hawliau Dynol



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

Paula Walters
Director

18 June 2013

Dear Ms Chapman

Inquiry into the future of equality and human rights in Wales

I am writing to express my disappointment on viewing the discussion that took place at the Committee's evidence session on Wednesday 5th June 2013. Whilst the collaborative nature of the response submitted by the WLGA and NHS CEHR was acknowledged positively the matter surrounding our non-attendance at the session was not accurately reflected.

Firstly, Committee Services informed the WLGA that they would prefer only the CEHR to attend an evidence session. Upon clarifying this, we were advised that the Committee would welcome a Health perspective. Whilst this did not seem to respect the joint response, I understood the position and immediately confirmed my willingness to attend and further asked to be informed of any specific areas members of the Committee would like us to cover in more depth. I received a reply saying that this information would be forthcoming prior to the session but I did not receive anything.

Secondly, I have unfortunately torn my ankle ligaments and a couple of days before the meeting was signed off work by my GP for a fortnight and advised to rest. My office contacted Committee Services the day before the session to let them know I was now unable to attend and that I would be happy to reschedule. My office was informed that there was no need to reschedule as the Committee had our written submission.

I considered asking the WLGA to take my place at short notice but decided not to in view of the initial request we had received from Committee Services. As I had personally led on the response with the WLGA I did not consider it appropriate to ask a member of my team to attend alone which is why I made the offer to reschedule.

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The WLGA and NHS CEHR have a long-standing commitment to promoting equality and human rights and have worked jointly on matters of interest and to ensure we use our resources effectively. I believe both agencies have a solid reputation; stretching beyond Health and Local Government and across the Welsh public sector. The evidence provided in our submission demonstrates the high level of commitment and the focus we have on improving services for patients, users and their families.

I hope this letter provides the Committee with a full explanation of events.

Paula Walters

Yours sincerely

PAULA WALTERS

Director, NHS Centre for Equality and Human Rights