


Carl Sargeant AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gymunedau a Phlant
Cabinet Secretary for Communities and Children



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00264/17

Robert Goodwill MP
Minister of State for Immigration
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

 February 2017

Dear Robert

The First Minister has received a report from the Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants about the operation of Right to Rent in England.

The report indicates that UK and other citizens without passports, particularly those from ethnic minorities, are experiencing discrimination in the private rental housing market as a result of the Right to Rent scheme. The scheme's stated aim is to make it more difficult for people to live in the UK illegally. However, the finding that even UK citizens are being discriminated against as a result of the Right to Rent checks are very concerning. The report also suggests the potential for the scheme to create indirect discrimination on racial grounds. I understand that the UK Government intends to roll out the scheme to Wales and the rest of the UK, following its introduction in England in 2016.

I recognise that immigration matters are the responsibility of the UK Government, but as the Cabinet Secretary within the Welsh Government responsible for equality matters, I must emphasise our opposition to any form of discrimination which prevents all people from fulfilling their potential and creating a more equal Wales.

We therefore believe that, before the scheme is rolled out to Wales, an evaluation should be undertaken to ensure that it is not causing the discrimination referred to in the report and to ensure adequate safeguards and monitoring are in place to prevent unacceptable outcomes for UK citizens and some of the most vulnerable people in our society.

Yours sincerely

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.