



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-771
Ein cyf/Our ref HID/05053/17

David J Rowlands AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

14 November 2017

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter to Rebecca Evans AM following the Committee's recent consideration of her earlier reply to you in relation to Mr Nathan Davies' petition (P-05-771) regarding the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG).

Following the public consultation held in 2014 on the principle of four options to provide long term support to former recipients in Wales of the Independent Living Fund, a summary of the responses received and the conclusions reached was published in March 2015. Stakeholders, including recipients, were informed of this at the time and until recently this summary appeared on the Welsh Government's website (only being removed as part of a wider updating of our website). In addition, an Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken on the decision to replace support to recipients via the WILG by support through local authorities' social care provision. I attach, as requested, a copy of the consultation summary published in 2015 together with a copy of the information letter on this which officials sent to local authorities at the time for them to provide to recipients. I also attach for information a copy of the subsequent Equality Impact Assessment undertaken. I would be grateful if you would provide these to Mr Davies as part of your response to him on his petition.

As to the stakeholder advisory group, no formal minutes of its meetings were made. Instead short summary e-mails were periodically sent to members setting out agreed action points arising.

The whole purpose of the transition arrangements which we have put in place is to ensure there is appropriate time for recipients to discuss and agree with their local authority the well-being outcomes they wish to achieve, and for an agreed future care package to be in place to deliver these, before a person's payments under the WILG cease. The stakeholder advisory group was clear that such a period was essential if a successful transfer of support provided through the WILG, to support provided by local authorities through their social care, was to be achieved.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Alongside this, the transition period also allows for the impact of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 to have had greater effect by the time this change occurs, so that our aims and objectives under this are in place to enable former recipients of the Independent Living Fund to continue to live independently at home.

*My kind regards,
Huw*

Huw Irranca-Davies AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Gofal Cymdeithasol a Phlant
Minister for Children and Social Care



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Consultation – summary of responses

What happens when the Independent Living Fund closes?

Date of issue: **March 2015**



Digital ISBN 978 1 4734 3224 6

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CONTENTS

Part 1 Introduction

Part 2 The Consultation

Part 3 Responses: Main Consultation

Part 4 Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

Part 5 List of Respondents

Part 1. Introduction

Last year the UK Government announced to Parliament that it was to close the Independent Living Fund (ILF) on 30 June 2015. This decision was taken without any prior discussion or negotiation with the devolved administrations. At this point responsibility for meeting the support needs of the ILF recipients in Wales will pass to the Welsh Government.

The ILF was set up in 1988 as an Executive Non-Departmental Public Body of the Department for Work and Pensions. It provides financial support to disabled people throughout the UK who require a high level of support to live independently. It is currently funded by the UK Government and operated by the ILF.

The ILF makes direct cash payments to disabled people with very significant care needs so they can meet the cost of the care and support they require, or to employ their own personal assistant. Payments can be used for a range of things such as: assistance with eating and drinking; cooking and preparing food and drink; assistance with dressing; cleaning, laundry and other domestic duties. As of 30 January this year there were 1,648 ILF recipients in Wales, who overall received on average just over £335 a week from the ILF to meet their needs.

Given the unilateral decision of the UK Government there was a need to agree and put in place future arrangements in Wales to support current recipients to continue to live independently. Welsh Ministers have indicated previously that to inform our decision on the most appropriate way to provide that support they wish to be appraised of stakeholders' views on how that support should be provided.

Part 2. The Consultation

A public consultation was held between 3 October and 23 December 2014 to seek views on the principle of implementing one of four options to provide future support for recipients of ILF in Wales. The options were developed in liaison with representatives of stakeholders, including ILF recipients and local authorities. The Welsh Government identified four options for supporting the care and support ILF recipients in Wales will receive after 30 June 2015, when the current ILF scheme closes.

These options were as follows:

Option 1 – setting up a successor body to the ILF in Wales. Option 2 - setting up a national independent living scheme in Wales.

Option 3 – transferring responsibility and funding to local authorities in Wales through their normal funding mechanism.

Option 4 – transferring responsibility and funding to local authorities in Wales via a special grant with conditions set by the Welsh Government.

Respondents were asked to consider the principle of putting in place one of the four options for these arrangements and to answer the questions posed on each as to its suitability to continue to deliver support to ILF recipients in Wales. The four options were outlined in detail, together with the advantages and challenges of implementing each. The advantages and challenges listed in the consultation document were not intended to be an exhaustive list.

Five questions were set out in a proforma style response form as an annex to the consultation documents which was published on line on the Welsh Government's web-site in a variety of user friendly formats.

We received 281 responses to the consultation. The full list of respondents /organisations is shown in Part 5 of this Report. It should be noted that some respondents wished to remain anonymous.

This document summarises the responses to the consultation questions and other evidence submitted related to the subject matter of the consultation. The aim of this document is to give an overview of the responses and to highlight common themes and suggestions put forward. The quality of response was varied and some respondents went into great detail, it would be difficult to reflect the full range of issues and suggestions raised. This document can only provide a summary of the responses.

Part 3. Main Consultation

Overview of Consultation Responses

The Consultation asked the following:

Question 1: Would you favour setting up a successor body to support existing ILF recipients beyond 30 June 2015? If so, what would you see as the main advantage of such an approach, how long might it operate and for how long? If not, why would you not support this?

Of those that responded to this option a large number were in favour of creating a Welsh version of the current ILF scheme. Views in support of this included many from ILF recipients who felt this funding allowed them to live as independent a life as possible. For example: –

“I am a current ILF recipient and I am in full support of this option in order that I can continue to receive the vital support I require in order to continue living my life as independently as possible. Being given the choice to employ people to perform essential daily tasks like getting up from bed, washing and dressing greatly means that I can live in my own home and it is extremely worrying and stressful to know that this may not be the case when the ILF closes next year. The ILF has worked for supporting many disabled people for years so there is no reason really why it cannot continue to work in Wales and hopefully to last as long as disabled people need it well in to the future. Without ILF funding I would be unable to remain in my own home”.

These sentiments are echoed by many other ILF recipients who support this option.

Views expressed against supporting this option included those on behalf of the North Wales Regional Local Authority ILF Group who response said:

“Although the NW regional LA ILF Group recognised that this option would provide existing ILF recipients with a degree of security, and give local authorities time in which to reassess peoples longer term needs, they did not feel able to support this option for a number of reasons.

This option would perpetuate an inequitable two tier social care system and fuel inequalities by continuing to fund care and support needs of a small percentage of people outside of the mainstream social care system. This would undermine the intentions of the SS & Wellbeing Wales Act and present additional confusion in relation to the introduction of a transformational eligibility framework.

At a time when local authorities are being challenged to be innovative, champion enablement approaches and support personal and community resilience, this option would tie up funding that could be used creatively and recycled to support the increasing demands being placed on statutory services”.

Question 2: Would you support establishing a National Independent Living Scheme in Wales? If so, what would you see as the main advantages of such an approach? How might it operate and for how long? If not, why would you not support this?

This option received strong support, again mainly from people who access the current ILF scheme. Views expressed to support this option included:

“Yes I support this option because it is the best option for wales and disabled people, would face in line with Welsh Government from 2016. Wales would have its own ILF similar to the present ILF like Scotland has done. Welsh Government owes a contribution to disabled people to live a life of independence and to help source quality of life, This must go with what disabled people require independent living for their lives”. However, against this option were views such as “I do not support this option because; present recipients of ILF would not necessarily receive the same package of care, LA might give less support, There would be less flexibility, set up and administration costs would be high, LA might find it too expensive, too much reliance of Westminster to give sufficient to WAG”.

Question 3: Would you support transferring the responsibility for meeting ILF recipients’ needs to local authorities and to the transfer of the funding into the Revenue Support Grant they receive? If so, what would you see as the main advantages of such an approach? If not, why would you not support this approach?

This option received little support other than from local authorities or their representative bodies. Views in support of Option 3 included a combined response from the Welsh Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Social Services (Wales) whose views included:

“ The devolution of funding into local authority social care budgets clearly has the merit of bringing two funding streams together, and having all the resulting adult social care funding allocated more equitably through the same system”.

“Local authorities are well placed to be able to acquire responsibility for the administration of ILF funding, in line with their broader duties to support people with disabilities. It is our view that the other options set out in the consultation will involve greater levels of bureaucracy and would require greater levels of coordination between organisations. The local authority option will minimise administration costs since local authorities already have much of the infrastructure in place, including staff members who are skilled and experienced in assessment and care management, financial assessment, income maximisation and administration. Local authorities also have experience in awarding direct payments to individuals to help meet their needs for care and independent living”.

From an ILF recipient viewpoint there was significant reluctance to support this option due to individual opinions of local authorities and a fear that current ILF funding levels would not be maintained. This was expressed in a number of responses such as:

“This option involves Local Authorities who cannot be trusted to deliver the ILF to disabled people”.

"I feel this option will not provide an individual service. The money allocated could be spent by the local authority on other care".

Question 4: Would you support transferring the responsibility for meeting ILF recipients' needs to local authorities but providing the funding to them via a special grant? If so, what would you see as the main advantages of such an approach and for how many years do you think such an arrangement should continue? If not, why would you not support this approach?

This option attracted support from both ILF recipients and local authority responders. However, a significant number of responders were against this option being adopted. Views given in support included statements such as:

"Yes I would support this option as long as the money would continue to be spent in the same way as the ILF and I am able to continue to live the life I chose".

"This sounds to be a much safer option if using a local authority to administer the fund. At least recipients are assured of their funding until 2016. and in our personal circumstances it will give us space to organise suitable alternative living arrangements for the person we care for".

Views given against adopting option 4 included:

"This option involves Local Authorities who cannot be trusted to deliver the ILF to disabled people" as well as "Again I could not support anything that involves the local authority take over responsibility they barely manage now and the strict criteria they use does not allow for thinking outside of the box on an individual basis it would be a real disaster if the local authority was given control of this and there are not enough social workers as it is the current system just does not work without adding this responsibility to them".

There were two additional questions asked, one concerning how to monitor changes to the new processes for ILF recipients in Wales and a second asking for anything other comments responders wished to make about the Independent Living Fund.

Question 5: The Welsh Government would welcome views on the best mechanism for monitoring the impact of these changes on ILF recipients. Please provide your suggestions and why you think these are the most appropriate.

Suggestions on how to monitor the impact the proposed arrangements would have on ILF recipient included:

"I feel that the best way of measuring the impact of any proposed change is to review the clients receiving the money every year or every two years which is the present system. This could be done with Social services and an independent organisation"

Another suggestion was:

"Ensure that every user in Wales gets an annual questionnaire to complete as a condition to their entitlement. Also during annual reviews of other support services such as Social Services reviews, Social Workers could complete a review form at the same time in respect of ILF".

There was a large body of support for engaging the actual recipients of the funding in assessing the impact the changes to ILF will have and for monitoring undertaken by bodies or persons outside of local authority parameters.

Question 6. Do you want to tell us anything else about the Independent Living Fund?

A number of responses included replies to this question but a wide number of personal views on how receiving funding from ILF had impacted on individual lives. An example of this was:

"I am in the receipt of the ILF and if it was not for this scheme, I would not be able to remain living in my own home in the community. The current care plan allows me my independence and control over my own life, even though I am totally dependant on my carers for al the necessities of life. The only alternative would be a nursing home, which at 62 yrs of age is not what i would see as a positive option. I would not accept this option on the long term basis without a fight. Living in my own house allows me control over my own life to help to eat and drink, prepare meals, washing and dressing, keep house clean and tidy, help to use the toilet, shopping, to go to bed as I please, attend the gym, "normal" life s possible for someone who is disabled. I wish that the scheme will remain the same in some form or another, as living independently in the community is my preferred option. I would like my life to remain the same for as long as possible, with he same care plan, as it currently fully meets my requirements. This response has been dictated by me to the care provider to respond on my behalf on email".

Part 4: Concluding Remarks and Next Steps

The number of responses received for this consultation indicates the interest that exists in Wales concerning the future arrangements for people in receipt of ILF. The views expressed and support given for the four options are quite clear. Support for Options 1 & 2 came largely from ILF recipients, their carers, family or representatives. Options 2 & 4 gained their support, in the main, from local authorities and their representative bodies.


The Minister for Health and Social Services, Professor Mark Drakeford AM, issued a Written Statement on Friday 13 March announcing the new arrangements for ILF in Wales from 1 July. Having carefully considered the responses and views expressed he has decided, at this point, to implement Option Four being a specific grant scheme, administered by local authorities to pay existing ILF recipients their current level of funding. This approach reflects both the need for speed in putting in place arrangements by 30 June of this year and the short term nature of the current funding offer. The grant scheme will run from July 2015 until the end of March 2017. Funding of £20.4m has already been confirmed for the period July 2015 to end of March 2016. This is based on the number of people receiving ILF when the current scheme closes on 30 June. Funding beyond this date is subject to the next Spending Round. If, at that point, funding based on actual number of recipients is confirmed as part of the long term budget of the Welsh Government then the Minister will reconsider the steps needed to develop a Welsh successor body to the current ILF as a longer term solution.

Officials will begin work with key stakeholders including service users, their representative organisations, local authority representatives and the Welsh Government Association to develop the details of the grant scheme. Their objective is to have an appropriate scheme in place for implementing from 1 July.

Part 5: List of Respondents

Age Cymru
ALP Supported Living Services
Arfon Access Group/ WACDS/ Gwynedd Direct Payments Forum
Assembly Member for Cardiff Central
AWFPC
Bridgend County Borough Council
Cardiff & Vale LHB
Cardiff & Vale Parents Federation
Cardiff University
Cardiff University Student
Care Forum Wales
Carers Outreach Service
Carers Wales
Cartefi Cymru
Ceredigion County Council
City & County of Swansea
Conwy
Denbighshire County Council
Dewis Centre for Independent Living
Disability Wales
Diverse Cymru
EMG Solicitors Limited
Flintshire County Council
Flintshire Learning Disability Planning Partnership
Genetic Alliance UK
Lifeways inclusive lifestyles
Member of Vaccine Victim Support Group
Merthyr Caers Network
MH/LD Directorate Hywel Dda University Health Board
Multiple Sclerosis Society
Neath Port Talbot
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
North Wales Regional ILF Group
Parkinsons UK Wales
PCS
Pembrokeshire
Pembrokeshire County Council.
Pembrokeshire Parent and Carer's High Support Needs Group"
Rhondda Cynon Taf CBC
SAIL CIC
Sense Cymru
Swales fire and rescue service
Vale of Glamorgan Adult Services
Welsh Therapy Advisory Committee
WLGA and ADS
Wrexham Adult Social Care
Individuals/Service Users/ 'On behalf of' Responses - (234)

Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Template – Part 1

Policy title and purpose (brief outline):	Introducing Long-term Support for former Independent Living Fund (ILF) Recipients in Wales. This is to provide future support to those who used to receive payments from ILF before its closure in 2015.
Name of official:	Gareth Griffiths
Department:	Paying for Care, Partnership and Cooperation Division, Social Services and Integration Directorate
Date:	27 October 2016
Signature:	

1. Please provide a brief description of the policy/decision.

The ILF was established in 1998 by the UK Government to provide payments to severely disabled people in the UK to assist with the additional cost of them living independently in the community. Following a recent change in policy direction, the UK Government subsequently closed the ILF on 30 June 2015 and transferred to the Welsh Government responsibility for providing future support to recipients in Wales with funding to enable this.

As an interim solution, the Welsh Independent Living Grant (WILG) was created to provide funding to local authorities to enable them to continue to make payments to former ILF recipients in Wales. Due to the level of funding transferred to the Welsh Government, such payments were at the same level of award as recipients had received from the ILF at the date of its closure. This arrangement was time-limited while a permanent solution to support recipients was agreed and put in place.

A group of stakeholder representatives (including recipients, third sector and local government) were tasked with providing advice to Ministers on the options for future support and the effectiveness of these to deliver this. Their conclusions were submitted to the Minister for Social Services and Public Health along with advice from officials.

Having considered this the Minister has decided to implement a two-year transitional period during which all former ILF recipients would undergo a review of their current use of their payments and what future well-being outcomes they were seeking to achieve. This is with a view to a care and support plan being put in place for the individual which would move their support over the two years from being provided via separate payments to support provided through their local authority's social care provision. That future support could be provided direct by a person's local authority, by a third sector organisation on their behalf, or by direct payments provided to the individual from their local authority to obtain themselves the agreed support they require.

2. We have a legal duty to engage with people with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 (please refer to Annex A of the EIA guidance) identified as being relevant to the policy. What steps have you taken to engage with stakeholders, both internally and externally?

A group of stakeholder representatives (including recipients, third sector organisations representing disabled and older people, and local government) were tasked with providing advice to Ministers on the options for future support and the effectiveness of these to deliver this. This group met with officials on a number of occasions to identify the options for future support and to consider the effectiveness of each of these.

In addition, a public consultation on four options was held between October and December 2014, where over 280 responded with their views on these.

Internally we have liaise with policy colleagues involved in welfare reform and independent living, and with finance colleagues, over the options for future support and the funding of these.

3. Your decisions must be based on robust evidence. What evidence base have you used? Please list the source of this evidence e.g. National Survey for Wales. Do you consider the evidence to be strong, satisfactory or weak and are there any gaps in evidence?

Data on former ILF recipients in Wales was provided by ILF including numbers, age, disability category, level of payments, etc. Since then regular monitoring of recipients in each authority has taken place through periodic reports being requested and provided by local authorities.

We consider this evidence satisfactory as it provides detailed information on former ILF recipients in each authority and changes which have occurred since responsibility for their support passed to the Welsh Government. The only gap in evidence is the exact support which all 1,500 recipients use their payments to obtain but this data is impractical to obtain. That said, the lack of this data becomes irrelevant as authorities hold review meetings with recipients and establish their future well-being outcomes and the future support there require to achieve these.

It is important to note any opportunities you have identified that could advance or promote equality.

Impact

Please complete the next section to show how this policy / decision / practice could have an impact (positive or negative) on the protected groups under the Equality Act 2010 (refer to the EIA guidance document for more information).

Lack of evidence is not a reason for *not* progressing to carrying out an EIA. Please highlight any gaps in evidence that you have identified and explain how/if you intend to fill these gaps.

4.1 Do you think this policy / decision / practice will have a positive or negative impact on people because of their age?

Age	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reasons for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Younger people <i>(Children and young people, up to 18)</i>			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not age related. Hence the decision does not have any impact due to age.
People 18-50			None.	As above.
Older people (50+)			None.	As above.

4.2 Because they are disabled?

Impairment	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Visual impairment	Yes.			Recipients in future will be supported by their local authority based on the well-being outcomes they are seeking to achieve. These will directly support their independent living.
Hearing impairment	Yes.			See above.
Physically disabled	Yes.			See above.
Learning disability	Yes.			See above.
Mental health problem	Yes.			See above.
Other impairments issues	Yes.			See above.

4.3 Because of their gender (man or woman)?

Gender	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Male			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not gender. Hence the decision does not

				have any impact due to gender.
Female			None.	See above.

4.4 Because they are transgender?

Transgender	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not gender. Hence the decision does not have any impact due to transgender.

4.5 Because of their marriage or civil partnership?

Marriage and Civil Partnership	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Marriage			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not relationship status. Hence the decision does not have any impact marriage or civil partnership.
Civil Partnership			None.	As above.

4.6 Because of their pregnancy or maternity?

Pregnancy and Maternity	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Pregnancy			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not parenthood. Hence the decision does not have any impact pregnancy or maternity.
Maternity (the period after birth)			None.	As above.

4.7 Because of their race?

Race	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Ethnic minority people e.g. Asian, Black,			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not race. Hence the decision does not have any impact on race.
National Origin (e.g. Welsh, English)			None.	As above.
Asylum Seeker and Refugees			None.	As above.

Gypsies and Travellers			None.	As above.
Migrants			None.	As above.
Others			None.	As above.

4.8 Because of their religion and belief or non-belief?

Religion and belief or non – belief	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Different religious groups including Muslims, Jews, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus, Others (please specify)			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on disability and not beliefs. Hence the decision does not have any impact on beliefs or non-beliefs.
Belief e.g. Humanists			None.	As above.
Non-belief			None.	As above.

4.9 Because of their sexual orientation?

Sexual Orientation	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence)/ How might it impact?
Gay men			None.	The provision of payments under the ILF was based on

				disability and not sexual orientation. Hence the decision does not have any impact on sexual preference.
Lesbians			None.	As above.
Bi-sexual			None.	As above.

4.10 Do you think that this policy will have a positive or negative impact on people's human rights? Please refer to point 1.4 of the EIA Annex A - Guidance for further information about Human Rights.

Human Rights	Positive	Negative	None / Negligible	Reason for your decision (including evidence) / How might it impact?
Human Rights including Human Rights Act and UN Conventions	Yes.			<p>Recipients in future will be supported by their local authority based on the well-being outcomes they are seeking to achieve. These will directly support their independent living.</p> <p>As such the rights of recipients to live as they wish will be upheld.</p>
<p><i>If you have identified any impacts (other than negligible ones), positive or negative, on any group with protected characteristics, please complete Part 2.</i></p> <p><i>Only if there are no or negligible positive or negative impacts should you go straight to part 2 and sign off the EIA.</i></p>				

Equality Impact Assessment – Part 2

1. Building on the evidence you gathered and considered in Part 1, please consider the following:

1.1 How could, or does, the policy help advance / promote equality of opportunity?

For example, positive measures designed to address disadvantage and reach different communities or protected groups?

The UK Government closed the ILF in 2010 to new applicants. This has meant for the last six years people with a disability who would have qualified have had no opportunity to receive payments to provide additional help to meet the costs of their independent living.

As a result a two-tier system of providing support to disabled people to live independently has arisen; those who solely get care and support from their local authority and those who are able to receive this and receive payments to help meet the cost of living independently. This has created an inequitable situation.

Transferring all future support for disabled people in Wales to mainstream social care provision from their local authority addresses this. It will result in all disabled people having the well-being outcomes they wish to achieve to live independently assessed by their authority in a similar manner with the support they require provided from one source.

1.2 How could / does the policy / decision help to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment or victimisation?

Not Applicable.

1.3 How could/does the policy impact on advancing / promoting good relations and wider community cohesion?

It removes inequality so as to promote support to disabled people on an equal basis.

2. Strengthening the policy

2.1 If the policy is likely to have a negative effect ('adverse impact') on any of the protected groups or good relations, what are the reasons for this?

What practical changes/actions could help reduce or remove any negative impacts identified in Part 1?

Not Applicable.

2.2 If no action is to be taken to remove or mitigate negative / adverse impact, please justify why.

(Please remember that if you have identified unlawful discrimination (immediate or potential) as a result of the policy, the policy must be changed or revised.)

Not applicable.

3. Monitoring, evaluating and reviewing

How will you monitor the impact and effectiveness of the policy?

List details of any follow-up work that will be undertaken in relation to the policy (e.g. consultations, specific monitoring etc).

Over the period of the two-year transition period the Welsh Government will monitor how each local authority is progressing with its reviews of recipients and the outcomes that result from these. This will be to ensure that recipients have reviews to time, that their future well-being outcomes are being identified with them and that the support they require is being provided rather than separate payments from social care provision.

The results of all impact assessments where the impact is significant will be published on the Welsh Government's website.

4. Declaration

The policy does have a significant impact upon equality issues

Official completing the EIA	
Name:	
Gareth Griffiths	
Department:	
Paying for Care, Partnership and Cooperation, Social Services and Intergration Directorate, Health and Social Services Group	
Date:	
27 October 2016	
Signature:	
Head of Division (Sign-off)	
Name:	
Lisa Dunsford	
Job title and department:	
Deputy Director, Partnership and Cooperation, Social Services and Integration Directorate	
Date:	
27 October 2016	
Signature:	
Review Date: April 2018	



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

All those in Wales who receive payments from the
Independent Living Fund

18 March 2015

Dear colleague,

Future Arrangements to Support Independent Living Fund (ILF) Recipients in Wales.

This letter is to inform you of the Minister for Health and Social Services' decision on the future arrangements for how the ILF will operate in Wales from 1 July this year.

The Minister for Health and Social Services, Mark Drakeford AM has issued a Written Statement on 13 March which announced his decision having carefully considered the 279 responses, the views expressed and support for each option consulted upon.

The Minister has chosen to implement Option 4 of the consultation. This is a specific grant, administered by local authorities to pay existing ILF recipients their current level of funding. This approach addresses the need to have arrangements in place when the current scheme closes on 30 June this year. The grant scheme will run from 1 July 2015 until the end of March 2017. Funding beyond 31 March 2016 is subject to the next UK Spending Round. However, if future funding based on the actual number of people in receipt of ILF is confirmed, as a part of the long-term budget of the Welsh Government, the Minister has stated he "will reconsider the steps needed to develop a Welsh successor body to the current ILF scheme as a longer term solution".

This announcement should reduce the concerns and anxiety expressed by a number of ILF recipients as well as to clarify the circumstances for their carers. The grant scheme will ensure that current levels of funding are maintained when the new arrangements are implemented. Officials will now begin working with stakeholders representing service users and local authorities to determine the detail of the grant scheme and how payments will be made.

In the meantime the ILF has confirmed that right up until its closure on 30 June you will continue to receive its support.

Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

A further letter will be issued to all ILF recipients in Wales once agreement on how the new arrangements will operate has been achieved.

A summary report of the Consultation Responses will shortly be available on the following web-site:

<http://gov.wales/consultations/healthsocialcare/fund/?status=closed&lang=en>

A Welsh version of this letter is available on request.

If you have any questions concerning the future arrangements please contact me:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Tel No. [REDACTED]

By post at:

Steve Gulliford
Developing Policy for Children and Adults Division
Social Services and Integration Directorate
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

Yours faithfully,



Steve Gulliford

Developing Policy for Children and
Adults Division, Social Services
and Integration Directorate / Yr Is-
adran Datblygu Polisi ar gyfer
Plant ac Oedolion, Y
Gyfarwyddiaeth Gwasanaethau
Cymdeithasol ac Integreiddio