

Julie James AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Tai a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Housing and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our: ref WAQ 79202

Adam Price AM
Assembly Member for Carmarthen East and Dinefwr
National Assembly for Wales
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7 January 2020

Dear Adam

Thank you for your Written Assembly Question: *Further to WAQ79139, will the Minister confirm whether the Welsh Government has conducted an assessment of the merits, or otherwise, of social housing provided directly by local authorities rather than social housing provided through housing associations, in terms of accountability to local people?*

I can confirm that we have not undertaken a specific assessment of the respective merits, or otherwise, of social housing provided by local authorities and housing associations in terms of local accountability.

Local authorities are, of course, accountable to local people through the democratic process, whereas RSLs, are accountable to their tenants and to their boards.

The Welsh Government is currently working with stakeholders, including the Welsh Local Government Association, the Wales Audit Office, TPAS Cymru and Community Housing Cymru to review the scope of regulation in relation to tenant services. The review will consider the current regulatory and accountability arrangements for tenant services in both sectors. This will include an analysis of the powers and functions of the relevant bodies in relation to tenant services and how those responsibilities are currently discharged. The review will also explore options for future alignment, assessing the potential benefits for tenants and landlords as well as the associated resource implications, risks and mitigations.

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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.

Local authority finance and governance structures will not form part of the review, but the implications for them will be considered.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie James". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie James AC/AM

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Minister for Housing and Local Government