



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

11/09/18

Dear ,

ATISN 12574 – Evidence base for Equality policies

Thank you for your request which I received on 11 August 2018 about the evidence base for Welsh Government Equality policies. The information you requested is enclosed.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,
Welsh Government,
Cathays Park,
Cardiff,
CF10 3NQ

or Email: Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

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.

Equality and Prosperity Division,
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff
CF10 3NQ

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of
Contact Centre 0300 0604400

Information Commissioner's Office,
Wycliffe House,
Water Lane,
Wilmslow,
Cheshire,
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

You asked for:

1. Information used as a basis to adopt 'gay friendly' policies by Welsh Government
2. Information used to inform the publication of *Race To The Future and Snowy White Peaks*
3. The evidence base used to select certain groups for representation and inclusion in a positive agenda in regards to the Welsh Government's equality policies, rather than white heterosexual men

In response to questions 1 and 3:

The Welsh Government is committed to creating a fair and equitable Wales. Our duties in this regard are set out in the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 and came into force in April 2011. The Act aims to ensure public authorities and those carrying out a public function consider how they can positively contribute to a fairer society in their day-to-day activities through paying due regard to eliminating unlawful discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and fostering good relations. The Regulations place duties on the devolved public sector, including Welsh Government.

As a public sector organisation Welsh Government is obliged to comply with the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED), which is section 149 of the Equality Act 2010: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/part/11/chapter/1>

The second aim of the PSED requires listed authorities to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission is the regulator of the Public Sector Equality Duty and their approach is to work with public authorities to encourage, guide, monitor and regulate activity. Their report 'Is Wales Fairer' can be read below (see external link). <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/sites/default/files/is-wales-fairer-2015.pdf>

This compares evidence from 2010 and from 2015.

Welsh Government's collation of equality information as part of the actions within our Strategic Equality Plan and as per Regulation 7 of the Equality Act 2010 (Statutory Duties) (Wales) Regulations 2011 in addition to continual Equality Impact Assessments of our policies and strategies, together with engagement with protected groups, aim to make best use of the existing evidence base.

During 2016-17, Welsh Government produced an updated review of evidence by protected characteristic, the *Review of Evidence on Inequalities in Wales*. This report

sets out current available evidence on outcomes for different groups in a range of areas, according to the nine protected characteristics listed in the Equality Act (2010). The Act prohibits discrimination against people on the basis of these characteristics. I hope that you also find this useful::

<https://gov.wales/docs/caecd/research/2017/170406-review-evidence-inequality-wales-2016-en.pdf>

The Chapter 'A More Equal Wales' in the report Well-being of Wales (2017) may also be of interest.

<https://gov.wales/docs/statistics/2017/170925-well-being-wales-2016-17-en.pdf>

In response to question 2:

Welsh Government does not hold information for this question, as we did not publish these documents.