



Jane Hutt MS  
Welsh Government  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
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MoJ ref: ADR 085229

5 February 2021

Dear Jane,

### RESIDENTIAL WOMEN'S CENTRE SITE SEARCH WALES

At our meeting on 14 January I promised to keep you updated on steps to identify a suitable location and site for the Residential Women's Centre.

Following an extensive trawl of available properties on the open market and in the Welsh public sector within thirty miles of Cardiff we have drawn up a shortlist of suitable properties.

The shortlist takes account of a number of criteria including, size and nature of property, accessibility, cost, ease of refurbishment, and availability of local services. We have also considered views on the suitability of the locations from key partners including Welsh Government Deputy Directors and the Welsh Local Government Association.

The shortlist of properties includes:

| <u>Site description</u>           | <u>Local Authority</u>                |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Care home                      | Newport City Council                  |
| 2. Care home                      | Newport City Council                  |
| 3. Hotel (Porthcawl)              | Bridgend County Borough Council       |
| 4. Office                         | Bridgend County Borough Council       |
| 5. Primary School site, Cefn Coed | Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council |


To meet the ambitious timetable for this project I am keen to have identified the final location during April 2021 and, to achieve this, our next steps will be:

- Ministry of Justice officials will write to the CEO of the Local Authorities of the shortlisted sites and have initial conversations in advance of submitting any necessary planning applications
- Submit change of use applications to the local authorities as required; and
- Complete feasibility studies and surveys for each property including conducting in-depth surveys of building condition and suitability.

Once this stage of the work is complete, I will confirm the outcome, at which point we will also be able to share a timetable for the refurbishment and opening of the centre. I appreciate these final considerations will be taking place during the Senedd election period but please be assured that we will take account of the restrictions in terms of any public announcements during this time.

I am very grateful for your support for this exciting project and for the continuing co-operation between our officials to bring the vision for the Residential Women's Centre to fruition and to ensure that it will function effectively within the devolved landscape.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lucy Frazer". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**LUCY FRAZER QC MP**