

Equality of Opportunity Committee

Pwyllgor Cyfle Cyfartal

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

12 October 2007

Dear Colleague

The Assembly's Equality of Opportunity Committee is conducting an inquiry focusing on migrant workers, their families and the communities in which they live and work.

The terms of reference for the inquiry are as follows:

To scrutinise the Assembly Government on the work it is undertaking to support migrant workers and their families, public service providers and local communities with high proportion of migrants within the population; and

Make recommendations on the action that needs to be taken to ensure equality of opportunity for migrant workers, their families and the people who live within the communities in which they live and work

In doing so, the Committee will:

- Examine the experiences of migrant workers and their families in Wales with particular reference to: working and living conditions; access to public services; social networking
- Identify the impact of economic migration on public service deliverers and local communities
- Explore the impact of the current regulatory framework governing the working and living conditions of migrant workers in Wales
- Highlight examples of good practice with respect to community relations; employment policies and service delivery

Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

Interested parties are invited to submit written evidence to the Clerk of the Committee at the above address, to arrive no later than Friday 4 January 2008. If possible, please supply an electronic version in MS Word or Rich Text format, either by e mail to equality.comm@wales.gsi.gov.uk or on a disk.

Please begin your submission by providing some information about your organisation before setting out your views and experiences in relation to some or all of the following areas.

a) Experiences of migrant workers and their families

- Are you aware of barriers experienced by migrant workers and their families in accessing public services? What are the key reasons for these barriers?
- Can you provide any examples of innovative practice in ensuring that public services are accessible and barriers can be overcome?
- Can you provide examples of good and poor working and housing conditions?
- Please provide examples of the English and Welsh language provision for migrant workers and their families in your area. How accessible and appropriate is this provision?
- What opportunities do migrant workers and their families have to build friendships and social networks between themselves and within local communities? Please provide details of any formal or informal groups or networks in your area.

b) The impact of economic migration on local communities

- What are the resource implications for public service providers in areas where a significant proportion of the population are migrant workers and their families?
- What are the advantages and challenges for people in local communities in which migrant workers live and work?

c) The regulatory framework

- How does current legislation, such as the Gangmasters Licensing Act 2004, work in practice?
- To what extent is the current legislation enforced?

d) Examples of good practice

Please provide examples of good practice, including:

- projects or initiatives which have enhanced community relations
- good employment policies and workplace initiatives
- accessible and appropriate public services

e) Suggestions

What action should be taken to improve the life experiences of migrant workers and their families and the communities in which they live and work?

For your information, the Committee has invited submissions from those on the attached distribution list. **They would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the letter to any individuals or organisations that are not included but might like to contribute to the review.** A copy of this letter has been placed on the National Assembly's web-site with an open invitation to submit views.

Disclosure of Information

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published, and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

Yours sincerely

Ann Jones
Chair, Equality of Opportunity Committee