

**Equality of Opportunity
Committee**

Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

11 February 2010

Dear Colleague

The National Assembly for Wales' Equality of Opportunity Committee is undertaking an inquiry into the accessibility of railway stations in Wales.

The aim of the inquiry is to explore actions the Welsh Government and other key organisations could take to improve the accessibility of railway stations in Wales.

Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

To assist with its inquiry the Committee wishes to receive evidence on a number of issues and would be grateful if you could respond to the points below which apply to you:

1. Have you experienced problems with any of the following?
 - Inaccessible platforms or other station areas;
 - Inaccessible facilities, such as toilets or information services;
 - Problems in getting from the platform onto the train or vice versa;
 - Stations that are unstaffed or have limited staffing.

(It would be helpful if you could tell us where you experienced these problems.)

2. What assistance is available to help overcome accessibility difficulties?
3. Is this assistance well publicised/advertised and readily available?
4. What changes could be made that would improve accessibility at railway stations for you?

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

5. Are you aware of any stations with good accessibility and/or facilities?
6. Are you aware of any stations that have recently undergone work to improve accessibility?
7. Are you aware of any stations where accessibility has declined?
8. Are there any other relevant issues you would like to bring to our attention?

Submissions do not need to address all the above areas and the Committee welcomes evidence from both individuals and organisations. We will also be holding oral evidence sessions in the Summer Term 2010 so it would be helpful if you could indicate in your submission whether you would be prepared to give oral evidence, if invited.

Generally, we ask for submissions to be made in writing because it is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee on our internet site so that it becomes part of the public record. However, we are also able to accept evidence in audio or video format. Submissions should be sent to the Clerk at equality.comm@wales.gsi.gov.uk, or the address above, to arrive no later than **Thursday 1 April 2010**.

Disclosure of Information

As previously stated, 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.



Ann Jones AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair