

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Cyllid a Llywodraeth Leol
Minister for Finance and Local Government



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: WQ89428

Rhys ab Owen
Rhys.abOwen@senedd.wales

14 November 2023

Dear Rhys,

You submitted a written question in which you asked, will the Welsh Government set out a statutory framework for public leisure services, along the lines of library service provision?

The statutory framework for library service provision is set out in the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. As part of the framework, section 7 places a duty on library authorities (county councils and county borough councils) to provide a comprehensive and efficient library service for all persons desiring to make use of them.

Whilst similar provisions are not in place for public leisure services, local authorities have various powers to deliver these, including under section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, which enables local authorities to provide a range of recreational facilities. These powers enable local authorities to respond to local needs and priorities as locally elected bodies and there are no current plans to amend these provisions to place leisure services on a statutory footing.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans".

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
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Minister for Finance and Local Government

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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.