

Communique for the Interministerial Group between the Department for Work and Pensions and the Welsh Government, held on 6 November 2023

The inaugural Interministerial Group between the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and the Welsh Government was held on 6 November 2023.

The attending Ministers were:

- from the UK Government, Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work, Tom Pursglove MP, who chaired the meeting;
- from the Welsh Government, Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip, Jane Hutt MS.

The Ministers discussed and formally agreed the Terms of Reference for the Group.

Both Ministers welcomed the establishment of the Interministerial Group and the opportunity to discuss issues of mutual interest, including help for the most vulnerable in society.

The Ministers discussed different initiatives by their respective Governments to support people to claim their benefit entitlements.

The Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work outlined DWP's Pension Credit take-up campaign including its Welsh media and stakeholder engagement dimensions; support for those in Wales making a claim to Universal Credit (UC); plans on "Move to UC" in Wales for those currently receiving the tax credits or benefits which it replaces; and the UK Government's broader Help for Households initiative.

The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip drew attention to the Welsh Government's commitment to ensuring that people in Wales claim every pound they are entitled to. She provided an update on the Welsh Government's income maximisation activities. These include the Claim What's Yours campaign, whose creative messages – delivered through all media channels – are a clear call to action encouraging people to contact Advicelink Cymru for advice on their entitlements and support to complete applications.

Both Ministers agreed it was important to work collaboratively in this area, including linking to each other's campaigns where possible.

The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip will chair the next meeting, which is likely to take place in Spring 2024.