



TGP Cymru

[Travelling Ahead: All-Wales Gypsy, Roma and Traveller Advice and Advocacy service](#)

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PRESS RELEASE

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Ombudsman for Wales investigation finds Welsh Government failed to ensure that local authorities are carrying out their duties to provide accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers.

In a [Public Interest report](#) published today the Ombudsman has upheld the complaints made by two families who have been waiting for site provision in the areas they live, which their local authorities are required by law to provide, and finds that Welsh Government failed to adequately monitor local authorities in carrying out their duties under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014.

The report recommends that the Welsh Government apologises for the failings identified and the impact upon the families. The report also sets out further recommendations for Welsh Government to improve the way in which the assessment and provision of sites are monitored and carried out under the legislation

[Travelling Ahead](#), the all-Wales Advocacy Service working with Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities is issuing the below statement on behalf of the complainants who wish to remain anonymous:

“We are very glad that our complaint to the Ombudsman has been upheld.

It proves to the general public that this government was quick to pass legislation in 2014 to make sites for Gypsies and Travellers, but failed to monitor councils to make sure sites were provided. This

also gave councils the impression that they don't have to abide by their legal duties in the Housing (Wales) Act 2014

That has left Gypsies and Travellers, our families, and others, with no accommodation for years; despite the need being known through the Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Assessments which councils have to carry out every 5 years

Please remember that there have been very few residential sites made across Wales and not one transit site has ever been developed anywhere in Wales since the legal duty came in – leaving us (and the general public) frustrated with nowhere for our families to live permanently or park our vehicles while travelling – 10 years after the Act came in this lack of progress is shocking

It is our belief that our councils have had no ambition at all to provide any type of cultural accommodation for Gypsies and Travellers and at no point has Welsh Government shown any willingness to make councils abide by the law despite the evidence and our complaints

Why would any council act when they are not monitored or spurred on to make sites? That's why councils drag their feet

We welcome these findings and are hoping that Welsh Government will now push councils in Wales to build residential and transit sites both for our families and all those others over Wales who need them as well"

Travelling Ahead is pleased that the families' complaints have been fully investigated and upheld by the Ombudsman – the service worked with the families to make sure their complaints were taken seriously and the publishing of complaint as a Public Interest report provides an opportunity for better progress to be made across all local authorities in Wales

The Housing Act duty was brought in for a reason and it has been disappointing and frustrating for families across all of Wales that it has not led to the site provision it was intended to. Like the complainants we welcome the recommendations and hope they make a difference to families across all of Wales

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