

Information Further to Ministerial Answers

**Information further to the supplementary to OAQ20493, issued by Rhodri Morgan,
the First Minister, on 27 January 2003**

To Jonathan Morgan:

You will recall that I said that I would write to you about the critical Best Value report on Cardiff County Council's special educational needs support services, which you raised with me on 26 November last. I am sorry that it has taken so long to provide this substantive response.

We have been assured that Cardiff County Council is giving this matter very serious consideration. As part of the process, the local education authority has to produce an action plan, which sets out how the authority intends addressing the issues raised. This action plan is submitted to Estyn who consult with our officials regarding its suitability. I have been told that the relevant action plan will be submitted to Estyn before the end of this month.

In view of the highly critical nature of the report, officials from our pupil support division have also met the chief education officer and the head of their special educational needs support services to discuss these issues, and in particular, how matters can be improved. We will now need to await their formal response to Estyn.

I hope that you will be reassured that, apart from my own personal interest in this matter, the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning's officials are maintaining very close contact with the local education authority over it.