

PWYLLGOR ADDYSG A DYSGU

GYDOL OES

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING  
COMMITTEE

Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning



Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay

Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Eich cyf / Your Ref:

Ein cyf / Our Ref:

2 June 2004

Dear Jane,

**BUDGET PLANNING ROUND 2004**

In accordance with standing order 9.8, I am writing to set out the budget priorities of the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee for the financial year 2005-06 onwards. The Committee considered this matter at its meeting on 19 May, taking account of your issues paper ELL(2) 08-04(p.3) and the commissioning letter from the Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services.

The Committee acknowledged the priorities it had identified the previous year; namely, special educational needs, raising standards in schools and tackling teachers' workload (implementing the national agreement) and implementing the national action plan for a bilingual Wales (Iaith Pawb). Regarding the latter, the Committee expressed support for teacher training through the medium of Welsh - with particular reference to early years settings. The Committee wished to see continued investment in these important areas of education and training based on systematic review and equal partnership consultation with practitioners.

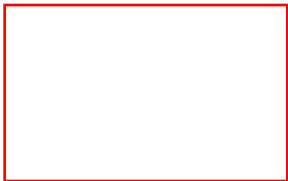
With regard to its initial budget priorities for 2005-06 and subsequent years, the Committee considered that particular attention should be given to:

- Teachers' continuing professional development (CPD), particularly in relation to performance management;
- Provision for implementation of recommendations stemming from the Committee's policy review report of special educational needs (SEN);
- Iaith Pawb - the supply and development of teaching staff able to teach through the medium of Welsh;
- Post-16 provision, including sixth form provision;
- Higher Education, with particular regard to reconfiguration within the sector; and
- Early years provision.

You will be aware that the committee has decided to undertake a policy review of school transport, which will primarily focus on the safety of school buses. An expert adviser will be appointed shortly, and the Committee will publish a report in due course.

I hope these suggested priorities will inform and support your deliberations with cabinet colleagues, when determining the Assembly budget. The Committee will consider the draft budget, as early as possible in the autumn term.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Black AM

Committee Chair

Cc Sue Essex AM, Minister for Finance, Local Government and Public Services