

Education and Life-Long Learning Committee

Civic Centre

Newport

South Wales

NP20 4UR

Mr C Dafis AM

Chair of Post 16 Education Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

Cardiff

CF99 1NA

14 February 2001

Dear Mr Dafis

I write as Chair of the Association of Directors of Education in Wales ICT Working Party.

The Working Party, which has representation from all 22 LEAs, welcomed the report on Information and Communication Technology in Schools which you considered at your meeting on 17 January. It offers a positive and coherent way ahead for ICT development in Wales on the examples of good practice which are already in place in several authorities.

However, there was strong concern about the inclusion in the report of the statement on page 4 "It became clear that there was a lack of common vision and direction in introducing and using ICT in schools across Wales, not least at LEA level". The negative reference to the LEAs is not borne out by the analysis of your expert adviser Neil Harries, nor did it form any part of his conclusions.

The drive to date in introducing ICT to schools in Wales has come across almost entirely from the LEAs. Until the recent issuing of the ICT Prospectus by the Assembly there has been little guidance or coordination.

Despite the above concern, your Committee's report provides a welcome first prospect of a clear national policy and the LEAs will be active and supportive partners in its implementation.

Yours sincerely

R G Bingham

Strategic Director

copy to: Ian Morgan

ICT Adviser, Caerphilly CBC

**EDUCATION AND LIFE-LONG LEARNING
COMMITTEE**

**Y PWYLLGOR ADDYSG A DYSGU
GYDOL OES**

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay

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Mr R G Bingham

Strategic Director

Newport County Borough

Civic Centre

Newport

NP20 4UR

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Dyddiad / Date 15 March 2001

Dear Mr Bingham

ICT in Education

Thank you for your letter of 14th February concerning the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee's report on ICT in Education. I note your concern about the reference in the report to a lack of common vision and direction in introducing and using ICT in schools across Wales. This was not meant to be unduly critical of local education authorities but, based on the wide range of evidence considered by the Committee, was felt to be factually accurate. I should point out that the Committee has approved the report and I have presented it to the Assembly, in plenary session.

I am glad that the ADEW Working Party on ICT endorses the report and considers that it offers a positive and coherent way ahead for ICT development in Wales. The constructive support of local education authorities will be vital in implementing the recommendations contained in the report.

Your letter and this reply will be brought to the attention of the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Cynog Dafis

Chair, Education and Life-Long Learning Committee