

# Children, Young People and Education Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 1 – Senedd**

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Meeting date:

**Thursday, 5 June 2014**

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Meeting time:

**09.15**

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Cynulliad  
Cenedlaethol  
Cymru

National  
Assembly for  
Wales



For further information please contact:

**Marc Wyn Jones**

Committee Clerk

029 2089 8505

[CYPCommittee@wales.gov.uk](mailto:CYPCommittee@wales.gov.uk)

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## Agenda

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**Private Pre-Meeting – 09.15 – 09.30**

**1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions**

**2 Higher Education (Wales) Bill – Evidence session 1 (09.30 – 11.30)**

(Pages 1 – 20)

Minister for Education and Skills

Huw Lewis AM, Minister for Education and Skills

[Higher Education Wales Bill, as introduced](#) and [Explanatory Memorandum](#)

**3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business: (11.30)**

Items 4 and 5

**4 Pre Legislative scrutiny of the Qualifications (Wales) Bill –  
Consideration of Key Issues (11.30 – 12.00)**

CYPE(4) –15–14 – Private Paper 1

**5 Inquiry into Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services –  
Consideration of evidence (12.00 – 12.30)**

CYPE(4)–15–14 – Private Paper 2

**6 Papers to note**

**Appointment of the Children's Commissioner in 2015 – Letter from the Presiding  
Officer (Pages 21 – 22)**

CYPE(4)–15–14 – Paper to note 3

# Agenda Item 2

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**Y Fonesig Rosemary Butler AC**  
**Dame Rosemary Butler AM**

# Agenda Item 6.1

Llywydd  
 Presiding Officer

Jeff Cuthbert AM  
 Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty  
 Welsh Government  
 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Tŷ Hywel  
 Cardiff Bay  
 CF99 1NA

Your ref:  
 Our ref: PO/RB/CS/CW

13 May 2014

*Dear Jeff*

## **Appointment of the Children's Commissioner in 2015**

You may be aware that during my regular discussions with the First Minister and in correspondence, I have raised the issue of transferring responsibility of the Children's, Older People's and Welsh Language Commissioners from the Welsh Government to the National Assembly. I feel strongly that this would increase transparency and accountability and I have sympathy with those who have lobbied me about the perception of Commissioners holding to account the body that appoints them.

I note that the recruitment process for the new Children's Commissioner for Wales, to be appointed early in 2015, has commenced. It may be too late for the Welsh Government to consider bringing forward subordinate legislation to effect a transfer of responsibility at this stage. However, given the engagement of the Children's Commissioner with the Assembly and its committees, I should be grateful if you would consider building into the process a pre-appointment hearing for the preferred candidate with the Children, Young People and Education Committee. I believe this would improve transparency and would allow the Committee to provide feedback to Welsh Ministers. I understand that the Committee raised the appointment process and accountability when you discussed the remit of your proposed Review of the Role and Functions of the Children's Commissioner for Wales on Wednesday 7 May.

**Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh**

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Llywydd  
Presiding Officer



You may wish to be aware that for the appointments of the Public Services Ombudsman for Wales and the Auditor General for Wales, the practice of pre-appointment hearings for the preferred candidate works very well.

I am very happy to discuss further if you think that would be helpful.

I am copying this letter to Ann Jones AM, Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

**Dame Rosemary Butler AM**  
**Presiding Officer**