



Lynne Neagle AM
Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

20 March 2020

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 5th March 2020 regarding the school funding review being led by Luke Sibieta.

Further to my correspondence with the Trade Unions on 6th February, Union representatives have met again with my officials and have also attended a meeting with Luke Sibieta. Luke has also met with individual union representatives on request. We are grateful for the involvement of this important stakeholder group in the school funding review and commit to continuing this engagement.

As I have said previously there is no average school, they differ significantly in terms of factors likely to influence their costs. I agreed that a review of the nature outlined in recommendation 1 has merit. Luke's analysis of how total spending, and spending on different categories of inputs, varies across schools in specific circumstances will help determine whether schools and pupils in different circumstances have sufficient levels of funding, now and in the future. This will include clear assumptions on the costs of different inputs and variables which can be built on and used to make detailed proposals on education costs. This will aid policymakers to determine whether schools in different circumstances have sufficient funding and how to best target any increases in spending. It will also include specific estimates of future costs pressures on schools.

In addition to recommendation 1, the school funding review will also provide information in response to a number of the Committee recommendations and is a valuable piece of work which is evolving.

We are working closely with Luke, and other stakeholders including Welsh Government Knowledge and Analytical Services and will be led by their expert opinion, it is also important that we do not pre-empt the findings of the review.

Should you require further information on the specifics of Luke's work to date, he would be happy to meet with you to provide an update and answer any questions you may have, particularly around the question of evidencing how much funding is required to fund schools sufficiently in Wales.

I hope this is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education