

Kirsty Williams AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref KW/01859/20  
Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

09 June 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS,

Thank you for your letter of 1 June regarding Petition P-05-969 Investigate the Draft Education Database Regulations 2020 - unnecessary and a breach of human rights.

The evolving national response to Covid 19 has had significant implications on resources within Welsh Government - this includes policy, financial and of course legislative capacity. The new pressures on the day to day work within the Government and the significant impact of Covid 19 on our resources has meant some difficult decisions have had to be made.

I can therefore inform you that the Cabinet recently undertook a prioritisation exercise to evaluate what was and was not deliverable in these uncertain times. As a result of the exercise, the planned work on home education, and in this case the Draft Education Database Regulations 2020 is not going to be taken forward in this Assembly term.

This does not mean that I agree that the draft regulations were unnecessary or would have been a breach of Human rights. It is disappointing that we will be unable to take forward reforms to home education in this term, but these are unprecedented times and, as I am sure you will agree, resources have to be prioritised to the management of the impact of Covid 19 in Wales.

However, the reforms remain a priority and I intend keeping this position under review, and should circumstances significantly change I will reconsider our decision to take forward the

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

regulations. If this happens I will inform you and I will to respond to the specific points that were raised in the petition.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**  
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Minister for Education