



Lynne Neagle MS
Chair of Children, Young People and Education Committee
Senedd Cymru
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

23 February 2021

Dear Lynne,

Today I have laid an updated version of the Explanatory Memorandum for the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill.

The changes to the Explanatory Memorandum mostly relate to the amendment, removal or insertion of provisions by the Stage 2 amendments. However, we have made minor refinements to the wording in some areas in order to provide additional clarification where appropriate.

Chapter 1

Whilst the description of the intended purpose of the Bill has been updated to reflect the amendments officials have also taken the opportunity to re-order the list of purposes to reflect the order of the provisions in the Bill.

Chapter 3

This chapter has been updated to reflect that English will be mandatory from seven (rather than three) years old, and removing the now superfluous provisions, which would have enabled schools and settings to disapply English for children at 3 to 7 years old.

It also reflects the amendments made to the requirements around the design and implementation of RVE in voluntary aided schools. Additional lines have been included to help explain the purpose and intention behind the structure of provision for RVE in the Bill. This should help to further reassure key partners, including the Church in Wales and the Catholic Education Service.

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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.

Revisions have been made to chapter 3 to make reference to the duty on Welsh Ministers to promote access to and the availability of courses of study through the medium of Welsh; and to take account of amendments to the requirements relating to the constitution of Standing Advisory Councils and Agreed Syllabus Conferences, which are responsible for developing and adopting agreed syllabi for RVE.

A section has been added to chapter 3 setting out the provisions included in the Bill to support mental health. This includes details of the duty (added in Stage 2) on persons listed to have regard to the mental health and emotional well-being of learners when exercising their functions under the Bill.

Chapter 4

Chapter 4 has been updated to reflect the additional survey undertaken during Stage 1 of stakeholder views into the proposal to amend the mandatory age of English.

Chapter 5

This chapter has been amended to reflect the updated powers and duties to make subordinate legislation under the Bill.

Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA)

The Stage 2 Government amendments, though significant in policy terms, do not place an additional burden on practitioners or stakeholders, as work on these areas was already progressing in terms of the new curriculum, but are now more explicit on the face of the Bill. Therefore, they are already included in the overall cost estimate for the new curriculum.

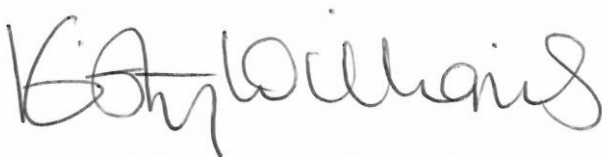
The RIA has been updated with the information provided by key stakeholders who were delayed from completing their work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Qualifications Wales has also provided updated information on their cost profile which has been impacted upon as a result of the pandemic. Slippage in 2020-21 has been re-profiled across future years, and is reflected in the RIA.

The RIA also been updated in response to the recommendations made by the Finance Committee in Stage 1. These are outlined in the letter to the Chair of the Finance Committee, which I have copied to you.

Also, I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you and the Committee that the financial resources required to implement Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill will be provided to enable schools and settings to undertake these reforms. Costs, including professional learning costs, will continue to be informed through ongoing partnership working, a robust evaluation programme and the national network.

This letter has been copied to the Chair of the Finance Committee and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely



Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education