



Llyr Gruffydd MS  
Chair of the Finance Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

23 February 2021

Dear Llyr,

Today I laid an updated version of the Explanatory Memorandum for the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill. In response to the recommendations made by the Finance Committee in the end of stage 1 report the revisions to the RIA are set out below.

**Accept or Accept in Part Finance Committee Recommendations:**

**The Welsh Government identifies how it will define and evaluate the success of the new Curriculum and outlines this in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment**

Chapter 11 of the RIA has been updated to explain how success definitions and indicators will be developed as part of the evaluation scoping study in 2021. Some examples, taken from the Curriculum Implementation Plan, and an indicative timeline have also been included.

**The Welsh Government undertakes further work to assess the costs to schools and engages with schools other than Innovation Schools regarding the costs included in the RIA. Information gathered should be represented in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment.**

Further work to estimate costs has not been possible because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The RIA has been updated with details of research and engagement with a wide range of schools that is planned for 2021, including a readiness assessment and co-construction work with schools via a National Network. This information

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will be used to update the cost estimates, which will be shared with the Senedd later in 2021.

**The Welsh Government undertakes further work to define and estimate the costs for 'Education Other Than At School' and assessment arrangements costs in consultation with stakeholders. This information should be provided in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment**

As stated above, further work to estimate costs has not been possible because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, the RIA has been updated with details of research and engagement with a wide range of schools and settings that is planned for 2021, including a readiness assessment and co-construction work with schools and settings via a National Network. This information will be used to update the cost estimates, which will be shared with the Senedd later in 2021.

**The Welsh Government details all sunk costs relating to the Bill in the same part of a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment.**

All sunk costs are located in the same part of the updated RIA.

**The Welsh Government should provide the detail on its discussions with stakeholders around the potential costs to the post-16 education system and publish any details of the financial implications.**

The RIA has been updated with this information, which reflects the information set out in my letter to you of 20 November 2020 (attached at **Annex A** for reference).

**The Welsh Government provides details of how it will review the costs provided by stakeholders (and advise the Senedd of those costs) and the timescales of implementation.**

Following my letter to you of 20 November 2020, the RIA has been updated to reflect the feedback from stakeholders in the cost section.

Also, to be aware, the original RIA set out the administrative cost to Welsh Government over the ten-year appraisal period (2021-22 to 2030-31) of approximately £175m. Between 2021-22 and 2025-26, the cost per annum will be £25m - £26m before falling to approximately £10m per annum from 2026-27 onwards.

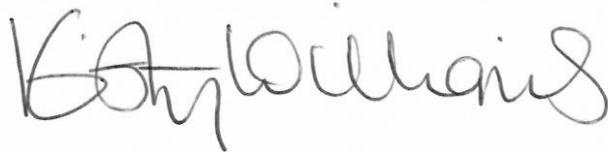
The revised RIA includes a revised profiling of the Qualifications Wales cost estimated as advised by Qualification Wales due to spend/activity in the current financial year being lower than anticipated when the original RIA was written. The result of this is that more of the Qualification Wales costs have been pushed into the 2021-22 to 2030-21 appraisal period. The £1.350m for 2021-22 is in line with the funding allocated to Qualifications Wales for curriculum reform.

There is a reduction in the estimated additional cost for providing Welsh language/bilingual resources – an estimate of £3.17m per annum was included in the original RIA but this has been revised down to £1m in 2021-22 and £2m in each of the remaining years in the appraisal period.

In terms of the headline cost figures in the RIA, the net effect of these changes has been to reduce the estimated cost of the Bill. The revised RIA now sets out the administrative cost to Welsh Government over the ten-year appraisal period (2021-22 to 2030-31) to be approximately £163m. In 2021-22 the estimated cost is revised to £23.4m (was £25.6m), increasing to £24m between 2022-23 to 2025-26 (was £25-26m), before falling to approximately £9m per annum was £10m) from 2026-27 onwards.

This letter has been copied to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Addysg**  
**Minister for Education**



Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref

Llyr Gruffydd MS  
Chair of Finance Committee

20 November 2020

Dear Llyr

Below is an update on the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) for the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill, further to my evidence session at the Finance Committee on 21 September and my letter of 5 November to Lynne Neagle MS, Chair of CYPE Committee.

In July a number of key stakeholders were invited to submit additional evidence to the Welsh Government to inform the costs identified in the RIA. These included WLGA, ADEW, Regional Consortia, ITE providers, Estyn, Catholic Education Service, WASACRE, Church in Wales, and Colegau Cymru.

WASACRE advised there will be no additional costs relating to their organisation. Estyn have advised they will meet any costs relating to the new curriculum from their core funding allocation.

Officials met with representatives from the further education (FE) sector in August 2020 who shared thoughts on the potential impact on the post-16 education system. These can be grouped as follows:

- financial implications for professional learning and development in the post-16 sector;
- the potential need for additional teaching hours in some subjects should certain areas of knowledge not be gained from the new compulsory curriculum; and
- the need to invest in Welsh language skills development in FE. For example, there may be further need for transition activities to be completed in order to ensure effective preparation onto post-16 courses for specific subjects.

Colegau Cymru recognises these issues do not necessarily form part of the financial scope of the Bill which focuses on the compulsory curriculum but consider these are costs that will need to be factored to make the new curriculum succeed in its aims.

The Welsh Government will continue to liaise with Colegau Cymru to ensure they are sufficiently prepared for the first tranche of learners in 2027, feeding into the Post-16

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Professional Learning action plan and the Professional Learning Framework for staff within the post-16 sector as appropriate. Financial implications will be met from budgets committed to the realisation of the new curriculum, building on the £124,000 allocated between 2018-19 and 2020-21 to FE to support the new curriculum. This expenditure is included in the 'Curriculum Reform Project' lines of tables 2 and 3 (pages 78 and 79) of the RIA.

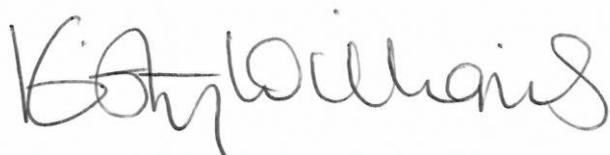
As advised in my letter of 5 November, work is ongoing to identify potential costs to awarding bodies, resulting from the change in qualifications and how these may impact on exam centres. The current situation with exams caused by the pandemic continues to make this exercise extremely challenging. Qualifications Wales are due to carry out a further consultation on qualifications for the new curriculum in the New Year 2021. As their work on qualifications progresses proposals will be subject to a separate RIA and any costs of the new qualifications to awarding bodies, schools and other parts of the sector will be looked at in detail and published at the appropriate time.

We have agreed funding for the Church in Wales and the Catholic Education Service to develop guidance to support the delivery of the new curriculum, from within existing budgets. This guidance is also intended to support schools to develop a curriculum that meets the wider framework requirements while also meeting their requirements as schools with a religious character. The Church in Wales and the Catholic Education Service maintain that the requirements for them to deliver both agreed syllabus RVE and denominational RVE would mean additional costs and resources for their schools. Work on this continues to ensure the requirements on schools of a religious character to apply each of the two required syllabi are appropriate. Financial implications will be met from budgets committed to the realisation of the new curriculum.

I hope this response sufficiently details our progress with regards to the financial implications of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill for key stakeholders. The RIA will be updated ahead of Stage 3 with the necessary additional information.

If you have any queries, please contact my office to arrange further dialogue.

Yours sincerely

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**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education