

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref CLA181  
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/GT/3472/12

David Melding, AM  
Chair  
Constitutional and Legislative  
Affairs Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

7<sup>th</sup> November 2012

*Dear David,*

### **CLA181 - The Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012**

Thank you for your letter of 24 October, on behalf of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, concerning the Play Sufficiency Assessment (Wales) Regulations 2012.

I have considered the Committee's report and would like to thank you for the comments made. I acknowledge the comment that a, "clear definition of 'play' that includes both structured and free play", needs to be included within the Regulations and Statutory Guidance. As you will be aware these Regulations are underpinned by the Children and Families (Wales) Measure 2010. In Section 11(6) of the Measure, 'Play' is defined as including "any recreational activity".

The Welsh Government's Play Policy 2002, stated that:

*"Play encompasses children's behaviour which is freely chosen, personally directed and intrinsically motivated. It is performed for no external goal or reward".*

My officials have engaged and consulted widely with stakeholders in drafting the Play Sufficiency Assessment (Regulations) 2012 and associated Statutory Guidance to incorporate these definitions and clearly set out the requirements for freely chosen play and structured recreational activities in the required assessments. The consultation Summary Report sets out our response to this issue.

Yours sincerely,

**Gwenda Thomas AC / AM**  
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Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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