

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1195
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11028/21

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions committee
Senedd Cymru
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1 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 2 September regarding Petition P-06-1195, *Conduct an independent inquiry into the death of Glyn Summers and the actions of Coleg y Cymoedd*. You asked me for my views on the issues raised by the petition, prior to its formal consideration by the Committee.

I want to start by saying how deeply sorry I am for the Summers family's loss. I know that over the last 10 years they have fought to understand the circumstances of Glyn's death, and that they have contacted Ministers including the current and previous First Minister to ask for an independent inquiry. This request has been very carefully considered by successive Ministers, and I have reviewed the case following recent correspondence from Sion Summers.

On 7 July this year I wrote to Mr Summers to let him know that, having considered the family's latest request for an independent inquiry, I had concluded that this would not be the appropriate course of action. I agree with previous Ministers that despite the tragic circumstances of Glyn Summers' death the necessity for a wider public interest as the basis for an inquiry, such as evidence of system-wide failures in educational safeguarding in Wales, is not met. An Estyn review commissioned by my predecessor in 2015, focusing specifically on the factors that were instrumental in Glyn's accident, confirmed that *all colleges in Wales have generally appropriate and relevant policies, procedures and guidance for educational visits*. The review made a number of recommendations to further strengthen colleges' approaches and I am confident that these have been addressed.

I have also told Mr Summers that I do not believe that an independent inquiry would help to achieve the outcomes that he and his family are seeking, such as a public apology from Coleg y Cymoedd. I am aware that the college's principal has offered to meet with the Summers family on a number of occasions.

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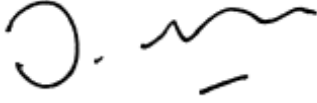
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Following subsequent correspondence from Mr Summers, I have agreed to meet with him to discuss his family's concerns.

Please let me know if the Committee requires further information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
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