

Jeremy Miles MS

Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Dyddiad | Date 19 November 2021

Pwnc | Subject: Skills and Post 16 Education Bill supplementary LCM

Dear Jeremy,

We considered this supplementary LCM at our Committee meeting on 18 November. We have a number of queries to help inform our consideration.

As the Committee must report on this LCM by 15 December we would appreciate a response as soon as possible, and no later than Friday 26 November, to enable us to consider it at our meeting on Thursday 2 December.

*Clauses 1 (Local Skills improvement plans) and 4 (interpretation)*

Paragraph 15 of the SLCM notes that the amendments made to clauses 1 and 4 of the Bill "have potentially increased the possibility of Welsh institutions being subject to the duties in respect of local skills improvement plans for England". As there is no further detail in the SLCM as to how, in practice, the amendments will potentially have this effect, can you provide us with this?

In your previous correspondence with the Committee you indicated that productive discussions at officials' level were undertaken in relation to amendments to these clauses of the Bill. The SLCM confirms that the amendments which have been made do not address your concerns. Are you able to explain why such discussions have resulted in amendments being made to the Bill which do not address your concerns? Can you confirm whether further discussions are ongoing with the Department of Education and if so whether they are likely to result in further amendments being made to the Bill which will address your concerns?

Can you also provide clarity as to the detail of amendments that you would need to see made to the Bill in order to recommend that the Senedd gives its consent to clauses 1 and 4 of the Bill?

*New clause 25 [Provision of opportunities for education and skills development]*

We noted that a new clause 25 has been inserted into the Bill. This clause provides that any person of any age has the right to free education on an approved course up to Level 3 supplied by an approved provider of further or technical education, if they have not already studied at that level; and that funding must be provided to the approved provider for that purpose. It also imposes requirements on employers in relation to spending funds for people on apprenticeships who are under the age of 25.

Although the Explanatory Notes note that this clause is intended to apply to people in England, this is not reflected on the face of the Bill. Can you confirm whether you consider that the new clause 25 of the Bill requires the legislative consent of the Senedd and if not, why not?

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely,



Jayne Bryant MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

