

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1160  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/11851/21

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

17 December 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 3 December regarding petition P-05-1160 (Require local Welsh exam centres to accept home-educated students for public exams).

Work on new proposals for elective home education (EHE) previously paused in 2020, has re-commenced and my officials are engaging closely with local authorities to assist in their preparation and implementation. As part of this work, a sub-group will meet in early 2022 tasked with identifying and developing best practice, in providing suitable help and support, to benefit all EHE families in Wales. This sub-group will also consider access to qualifications and examinations as part of its remit. I will ask my officials to ensure that the Committee be informed on the outcome of this work.

As announced by Qualifications Wales in March, we expect exams to take place in 2022. With this in mind, as in previous exam years, private candidates should start thinking about contacting centres to work with. We are advising candidates to do this as soon as possible as the deadline for centres to make entries to WJEC is **Monday 21 February 2022**.

Centres are being encouraged to allow private candidates to register with them in the usual way. If candidates are unable to find a centre, they should speak with their Local Authority Home Education Officer for advice. If any reasonable adjustments are required, the learner should raise these with the Centre/Home Education Officer at this time.

Should the public health situation make the scheduled 2022 exam series no longer possible, contingency arrangements have been prepared and will apply. The overarching contingency plans can be viewed on the [Qualifications Wales website](#).

Where a private candidate wishes to be entered for qualifications which are not regulated by Qualifications Wales, the appropriate awarding body / regulator would need to clarify their arrangements. The Department for Education in England has agreed the approach that will

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales)

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.

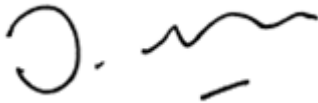
be taken for private candidates in this instance (e.g. those taking AQA, OCR, Eduqas or Pearson qualifications) and published [a letter to private candidates](#) outlining their plans.

With regard to fees, as has been the case for previous exam year, most private candidates pay the entry fee for their qualification and an additional charge for the centre to administer that entry. Should contingency arrangements become necessary, the entry arrangements for private candidates would be reviewed to ensure an alternative assessment approach did not create additional barriers for private candidates.

With our intention to build more positive and effective partnerships with EHE families, we are providing local authorities in Wales with £1.7m this year to support EHE. It is for individual local authorities to decide how they use the funding to support EHE in their area, in line with ensuring the limited resources are used to best effect and in line with their statutory responsibilities. In some cases, parents/carers have accessed this funding to assist with the costs of qualifications and examinations.

I hope that you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Miles', with a stylized flourish.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg  
Minister for Education and Welsh Language