

Jayne Bryant MS  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
Tŷ Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

21 November 2023

Dear Jayne

### Evidence session for Petition P-06-1358 Review the inadequate funding for Schools in Wales

The Petitions Committee took evidence regarding the above petition at our meeting on 13 November 2023. This was an informative and concerning session which highlighted the increasingly difficult financial situation faced by schools across Wales.

We heard from governors and head teachers, who shared the challenges they are facing when trying to deliver their statutory responsibilities while facing real-terms budget cuts, plus increasing additional learning and health needs among their pupils.

With policy committees about to start the budget scrutiny cycle, we thought that the best thing we could do as a Petitions Committee would be to share this session with those committees about to take a closer look at education funding. We believe that the evidence we received would be invaluable for your committee.

We appreciated the wealth of knowledge and expertise shared by the panel who raised a number of concerning issues. These included:

- concerns about the current funding model for schools and the inequity of funding between schools;
- the number of schools setting deficit budgets with more predicted to do so next year;
- the inability to offer permanent contracts to teaching support staff;
- reducing support for children with additional learning needs;
- the negative impact on subjects offered or school activities; and
- a significant impact on the health and wellbeing of school staff and governors.

Further information about the petition, including related correspondence, is available on our website at: <https://business.senedd.wales/ielssueDetails.aspx?IId=41888&Opt=3>

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team at the e-mail address below, or on 0300 200 6454. I would be grateful if you could send your response by e-mail to the clerking team at [petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:petitions@senedd.wales).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Sargeant". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a horizontal line that ends in an arrowhead pointing to the right.

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

