

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: Petition P-06-1436

Ein cyf/Our ref: LN/05417/24

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

19 June 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 May 2024, as Chair of the Petitions Committee, regarding Petition P-06-1436 Withdraw plans to change the structure of the school year.

I acknowledge the petition and am grateful to you for sharing it. Over the past two years, we have engaged with the education workforce unions, the school's workforce more generally, children and young people, families, and representatives from other sectors in developing the proposals presented as part of the recent Consultation on the School Year.

That consultation ended on 12 February and provided an opportunity for individuals and groups across Wales to provide their input on the proposals.

I note the points set out in the petition text and additional information.

As I set out in my Oral Statement of 4 June, I have fully assessed the responses to that consultation, which numbered over 16,000, including those from children and young people, families, those working within the education system and other stakeholders. Those responses were very mixed and equivocal. This is in line with the wider discussion on the issue and the evidence base.

As such, I confirmed that decisions on the implementation of any change to the school year would not happen during this Senedd term. This will also allow other reforms, such as the

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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.

New Curriculum for Wales and reforms around Additional Learning Needs to be fully implemented and rolled out before any changes are considered.

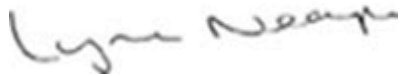
Links to the findings of the consultation can be found here:

<https://www.llyw.cymru/strwythur-y-flwyddyn-ysgol>

<https://www.gov.wales/structure-school-year>

I welcome the Committee's continued work on these important issues.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

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