

Rocio Cifuentes
Children's Commissioner for Wales

22 August 2024

Dear Rocio

As you will be aware, the Committee is currently undertaking Stage 1 scrutiny of the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill, and we are keen to further understand your views on whether mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse duties by *individuals* should be included within the Bill.

In your written evidence, you point to the omission of a mandatory reporting requirement for specific individuals to report child sexual abuse (as included in the Welsh Government's original consultation on legislative proposals). You refer to "a recent case of the headteacher from North Wales recently convicted of sexual offences involving pupils as an example of where it appears that compliance with the existing frameworks may have been significantly lacking, leading directly to harm to these young women".

You may wish to consider the response provided by the Minister for Social Care on 6 June about why there was a change of position since the consultation proposals for this legislation to take forward the recommendation of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse that Welsh Government introduce mandatory reporting for specific individuals to report child sexual abuse. The Minister told this Committee

"What we have already is a duty of mandation on organisations. When we looked at the recommendation from that inquiry, we didn't feel that the recommendation around individual mandation was appropriate from the feedback that we had from our partners and stakeholders here in Wales..".

Subsequently, at our request, the Minister provided further information on this point on the 28 June.



If you would like to reflect on the Minister's most recent contribution, we would be grateful to hear from you by **13 September**, so that we can consider your views when we return in the autumn term.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Sam Rowlands'.

Sam Rowlands MS
Temporary Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg. We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.