

Cecile Gwilym
Policy and Public Affairs Manager for Wales
NSPCC Cymru

22 August 2024

Dear Cecile

As you will be aware, the Committee is currently undertaking Stage 1 scrutiny of the Health and Social Care (Wales) Bill.

The Committee is keen to understand the views of the NSPCC on whether mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse duties by *individuals* should be included within the Health and Social Care Bill.

In written evidence to us, the Children's Commissioner for Wales points to the omission of mandatory reporting for specific individuals to report child sexual abuse (included in the Welsh Government's original consultation on legislative proposals). She refers 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".

During our meeting on 6 June, we questioned the Minister in charge of the Bill about why there had been a change of position since the consultation proposals 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..."

Since then, we have received further information on this point from the Minister for Social Care in writing, and this references the work of the NSPCC.

If you would like to submit your views on this point, it would be helpful if we could receive your response by **12 September 2024** to enable us to take account of it in our report on the Bill.

Yours sincerely



Sam Rowlands MS

Temporary Chair, Health and Social Care Committee

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

