

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Buffy Williams MS  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
Senedd Cymru

20 January 2025

Dear Chair,

### **Outcome of the UK Education Ministers' Council meeting**

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I am writing to inform you of the outcome of the fifth UK Education Ministers Council (EMC) meeting, which took place in Lisburn, Northern Ireland on the 20 November 2024.

As lead Cabinet Secretary for this Interministerial Group, I attended the meeting on behalf of the Welsh Government.

The meeting was chaired by Paul Givan MLA, Minister of Education for the Northern Ireland Executive. The Rt Hon Bridget Phillipson MP represented the UK Government. Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills sent apologies on behalf of the Scottish Government. Officials from all four nations also attended.

The group were welcomed to Laurelhill Community College where they enjoyed a dress rehearsal of the annual school production. There were also opportunities to meet with students to discuss their experiences.

The theme of the meeting was Teacher Professional Learning and teacher recruitment and retention.

The Chair welcomed representatives from the four Initial Teacher Education institutions in Northern Ireland (Stranmillis and St. Mary's University Colleges, Queens University and Ulster University), who gave a presentation on the range of courses available, how the courses prepare students to support those with special educational needs, how students are prepared to use technology in their teaching careers and opportunities for post-graduate study.

This was followed by a discussion on Teacher Professional Learning around best practise and the various challenges experienced by all members in their jurisdiction.

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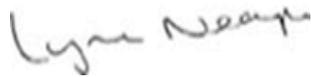
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

The valuable contribution made by International Students across the UK was discussed, along with early childcare schemes with Northern Ireland and Wales highlighting the Childcare Subsidy Scheme and the Flying Start Scheme respectively.

It was agreed that the Welsh Government would host the next the next meeting. Officials will collaborate with their counterparts to set the theme and agenda.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynne Neagle". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**

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Cabinet Secretary for Education