



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1499  
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00283/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair - Petitions committee

29 May 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March in relation to Petition P-06-1499 Stop the use of term 'Universal Provision' as a reason to deny ALN. I'm sorry for the delay in responding to you.

I want to be clear that 'universal provision' should not be a reason to deny ALN. However, I am aware that the term 'universal provision' is widely used by schools and local authorities when describing the provision which is generally available to all pupils of the same age. Estyn's recent thematic review of the ALN reforms report there is confusion in schools and local authorities around what constitutes 'universal' provision, and what is additional learning provision. This confusion is causing difficulties when determining whether a learner has ALN.

In response to evidence and concerns that some parts of the ALN legislative framework is complex and unclear, I have announced a review of the framework. The review will consider the clarity and accessibility of the legislative framework, and this includes the clarity and consistent interpretation of the definitions of ALN and ALP (Additional learning provision). The evidence gathering period of the review has now complete and after a period of consideration of the evidence, I will report next steps in July.

In parallel to the review of the ALN legislative framework, we are also considering ways to improve the shared understanding of what provision is 'generally available' to learners of the same age in Wales to support the sector when making decisions on ALN.

Our recent work with researchers at Policy Bristol has explored the use of the term and finds that it includes strategies, resources and adaptations to the curriculum and environment adopted by practitioners to remove barriers to learning for all children and young people. This approach is fundamental to providing an inclusive education system. I include a link to the published report here. [What should constitute 'Generally Available' Provision in schools in Wales? - Policy Bristol](#).

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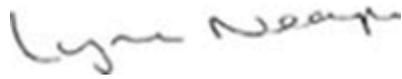
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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 authors, Dr Cathryn Knight, Dr Carmel Conn and Dr Rhiannon Packer found a high-level of agreement amongst stakeholders about important 'generally available' practices which centred around high-quality teaching. They made important points for government to consider developing national guidelines on what's generally available, and we are identifying next steps to add clarity to the term universal provision and improve consistency in applying the ALN legislation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lynne Neagle'.

**Lynne Neagle AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education