

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Petitions Committee

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru
National
Assembly for
Wales



Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-04-432

20 February 2013

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you may be aware, the Petitions Committee of the National Assembly for Wales exists to consider all admissible petitions received from the public and stakeholders.

The Petitions Committee has received the following petition:

We call on the National Assembly to urge the Welsh Government to recommend that the armed forces should not go into schools to recruit.

Britain is the only country in the European Union that allows a military presence in its schools. Britain is the only country of the 27 European Union countries to recruit 16-year-old children to the armed forces. The armed forces target their recruitment in schools in the most deprived areas of Wales.

Bae Caerdydd
Caerdydd
CF99 1NA
Cardiff Bay
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Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8998
E-bost / Email: petition@wales.gov.uk

The Committee has agreed to look at this issue in more detail.

We are interested in receiving views from individuals, groups and organisations on the subject of this petition. These views will be used as evidence by the Petitions Committee in its consideration of the petition.

The Committee is interested to hear views on whether schools, pupils, parents or others have any views about the Armed Forces providing careers advice or training in schools or whether this is a service that is valued.

The Committee would also like to hear views on whether there are differences in the ways that the Armed Forces work in local authority maintained schools and independent schools.

Questions you may wish to consider in responding

- Do you have any concerns about the Armed Forces giving career advice in schools or do you welcome such advice?
- What are the benefits and disadvantages of the Armed Forces giving career advice in schools?
- What impact, if any, would restricting armed forces access to schools have on young people's access to information about Armed Forces careers?
- Do you have any evidence that the Armed Forces target their activities in schools in more deprived areas?
- Do the Armed Forces work differently in independent schools than in local authority schools?

If you would like to submit evidence, we would be grateful to receive it by **Tuesday 16 April 2013**. Please send an electronic copy of your submission to petition@wales.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can write to:

Committee Clerk, Petitions Committee, National Assembly for Wales, Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Responding to the consultation request

The Committee welcomes responses from both individuals and organisations. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief description of the role of your organisation.

The Committee welcomes contributions in English or Welsh and will consider responses to the inquiry before deciding whether to hold oral evidence sessions in the Spring / Summer term.

Submissions should arrive by **Tuesday 16 April 2013**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

For your information, the Committee has invited submissions from those on the attached distribution list. We would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the letter to any individuals or organisations that are not included on this list, but might like to contribute to the inquiry. A copy of this letter has been placed on the National Assembly's website with an open invitation to submit views.

Disclosure of Information

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'W'.

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

Distribution List:

Sample of secondary schools – urban, rural, area of disadvantage, affluence.

Teachers unions:

National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT)

Association of School and College Leaders (ASCL)

National Union of Teachers (NUT)

National Association of Schoolmasters Union of Women Teachers
(NASUWT)

National Union of Teachers, Wales (UCAC)

Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)

Church in Wales Education Service

Catholic Education Service

Careers Wales

Children's Charities

Children's Commissioner for Wales

Children in Wales

Action for Children

The Adolescent & Children's Trust

Barnardos Cymru

NSPCC Cymru

Save the Children

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Royal Forces Cadets Association for Wales

Armed Forces Careers Office

Faith groups:

Baptist Union of Wales

Cytûn

Church in Wales

Roman Catholic Church

Evangelical Alliance Wales

Free Church Council of Wales

Buddhist Council of Wales

Sikh Council UK

Reform Judaism

Muslim Council for Wales

Inter-Faith Council for Wales

Methodist Church in Wales

Orthodox Wales

Presbyterian Church of Wales

Orthodox Mission Wales

Archbishop of Wales

British Humanist Association

Baha'i Faith

Hindu Temple Whitchurch

South Wales Jewish Representative Council

Shree Swaminarayan Temple

National Secular Society

Fellowship of Reconciliation (petitioners)

Welsh Independent Schools Council

End Child Poverty Network Cymru

Welsh Local Government Association/Association of Directors of Education in
Wales

Bevan Foundation

Oxfam Cymru

Race Equality First