

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc
ac Addysg**

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**Children, Young People
and Education Committee**

Children's Commissioner for Wales,
Rocio Cifuentes

21 November 2025

Follow up to Annual Scrutiny Session

Dear Rocio,

Thank you to you and Tomos for attending the Children's Commissioner for Wales Annual Scrutiny session on 12 November 2025. The session was both informative and constructive, providing valuable opportunity for us to engage in meaningful dialogue with your office.

As we mentioned during the session, there were some additional issues we wanted to raise with you, and we felt these could be effectively addressed in writing. We would therefore be grateful if you could respond to the following questions:

1. The Committee has scrutinised a range of significant education related issues - including curriculum and ALN reforms, school standards, teacher recruitment and retention, pupil absence and peer on peer sexual harassment. We also know the Welsh Youth Parliament are looking at behaviour in schools. To what extent would you say the combination of these education issues could create the 'perfect storm' for compulsory age education that will need addressing in the Seventh Senedd? How concerned are you about these combination of challenges facing education?
2. To what extent are you aware that the wording "boosting standards in schools and colleges" has been removed from the First Minister's four stated priorities, and do you consider this change to signal a reduced emphasis on educational improvement? This was raised by the Committee of the Scrutiny of the First Minister in a [letter to First Minister](#) and the [response dated 17 September](#).

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3. Your Annual Report says that your casework included a “high volume of concerns” about social services, particularly placement breakdowns, delays in assessments, and access to advocacy for children in care. How would you assess the impact of our Committee’s scrutiny on the radical reform of support for care experienced children. Has anything changed since our report was published in 2023?
4. Transport is an issue which has arisen in several of our inquiries and your Manifesto for the Senedd Elections calls for free public transport for under 18s and also for a full review of the Learner Travel Measure 2008 and associated guidance. What’s your assessment of how the current £1 fares pilot is going? To what extent will this address some of the learner travel issues that you deal with?
5. You have published a Manifesto for the Senedd Elections 2026. What do you see as the absolute priority for legislative change in the first year of the Seventh Senedd?

There was also an agreement that you would provide statistics to the Committee about how the children and young people who request assistance from your team, first heard about your casework function.

We would be grateful if you could respond by 10 December 2025.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS

Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.