

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-347
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/06622/11

William Powell AM
Chair of the Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

15 December 2011

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 28 November, regarding petition P-04-347 - Property and Asset Review. The petition requests that the National Assembly and the Welsh Government carry out an asset and property review of their respective buildings and or priorities to reduce the number of properties that are underutilised and to use the capital saved to fund the 21st Century Schools Programme.

In July 2011 the Cabinet agreed a set of principles for Phase 2 Location Strategy (2010-15) in respect of the Welsh Government's administrative estate.

The principles provide a framework for sustainable management of the Welsh Government administrative estate, maximising our investment in our major new offices. We will also sustain Welsh Government jobs and offices in key locations in support of local economies, reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and deliver a 30% reduction against current occupancy costs.

The over-riding aim is to provide a high quality, compliant and sustainable property infrastructure in the right place to support Welsh Government's business, at a cost the organisation can afford.

Effective management of our property assets is increasingly important during this period of unprecedented economic stringency. The pressure on finances means that we must better align our office estate to the business and push hard for efficiency savings - investing where appropriate, rationalising where necessary and optimising savings through better estate rationalisation.

Full details on the Welsh Government's Administrative estate and how it is being managed can be found in the annual 'State of the Estate' report. A link to the most recent report is attached.

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/civilservice/facts/ourbuildings/stateestate1011/?cr=3&lang=en>

In respect of the 21st Century Schools programme, it would not be possible for any savings made on property to support the programme, as these are separate distinct budgets within the Welsh Government, any decisions on the utilisation of budget savings would need to be made by all Ministers collectively.

On the 5th December 2011, I issued a written statement regarding the 21st Century Schools programme, which is attached. The statement can also be found at the link below;

<http://wales.gov.uk/about/cabinet/cabinetstatements/2011/05december21centuryschoolsprogram/?lang=en>

Yours sincerely



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