



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-628  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02225/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

25 November 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 13 November on behalf of the Petitions Committee seeking my views on the enclosed letter from Deffo.

Professor Donaldson's independent review of curriculum and assessment, 'Successful Futures', was published in February 2015. I accepted all 68 recommendations in full in June, and I published an implementation plan called 'A Curriculum for Wales, a Curriculum for Life' on 22 October. The plan sets out how the new curriculum will be developed with education professionals across Wales, with the aim of it being available to settings and schools by September 2018.

Our new curriculum will be a curriculum for all of the children and young people in Wales; with the four purposes at its heart. They are the starting point for all decisions on the content and experiences developed as part of the new curriculum. They are designed to influence how practitioners and teachers plan, teach and assess. The four purposes of the curriculum in Wales should be that children and young people develop as:

- ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives
- enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work
- ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world
- healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society

The new curriculum will be developed by some of our best practitioners through a Pioneer Schools model. I announced the first tranche of Pioneer Schools on 5th November. This network will lead on the design and development of the new curriculum, in consultation with their wider networks and other relevant stakeholders. They will initially focus on specific developments – Curriculum, New Deal, and Digital Competence. By working closely

together they will ensure what they produce is coherent and aligned to our strategic objectives.

Pioneer Schools are critically important and this is a very exciting opportunity for them to be part of a team that will play a key role in ensuring better learning and higher standards for all of our children and young people and ultimately for Wales itself. A proportion of these schools are special schools, and some will be working as clusters to advise and ensure that the new curriculum is inclusive for all learners.

My officials, unfortunately have no record of receiving the original email from Deffo dated 19 May which was enclosed with their letter to the Committee dated 29 July. I am clear that all stakeholders should be able to be involved as appropriate in the development of the new curriculum and assessment arrangements. The approach will be highly collaborative and inclusive, as was the review itself. Therefore, in the first instance I will ask my officials to arrange to meet with representatives from Deffo.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills