



Our ref: MA-P/HL/1054/16

Christine Chapman, AM
Chair
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

1st March 2016

Dear Christine,

Refreshed Financial Inclusion Strategy

Thank you for your letter of 2 February regarding the refreshed Financial Inclusion Strategy. You refer to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee meeting that took place on 27 January where the Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty referred to Estyn's thematic review of 'Quality of provision of financial education in primary and secondary schools'. You have asked for further information, in particular, the timescale of the review and what priority I have asked for the review to be given alongside the other areas of work that Estyn will be remitted to carry out.

The review forms part of Estyn's annual remit for 2016/17 and will be conducted within that year. The 2016/17 remit draws together the advice that I require from April 2016. I issued the annual remit to Meilyr Rowlands, HMCI Estyn on 24 February and it was published on the Welsh Government website on 1 March 2016.

The review of 'Quality of provision of financial education in primary and secondary schools' is expected to:

- Comment on the quality and coverage of financial education in schools;
- Provide feedback on what works well, and less well, to inform future improvement on financial education in Wales;
- Provide feedback on whether any identified weaknesses are with practitioners, due to insufficient support/resources, or due to some other area that may warrant national or regional support; and

- Be used to inform further policy development to improve financial provision in schools.

The review should give a clear steer and recommendations on areas for improvement, and indicate areas of good practice for Welsh Government, Regional Consortia and wider stakeholders to act on. The published report should also provide assurance to the National Assembly for Wales that financial education remains an important part of curriculum delivery and that it is sufficiently supported within schools. Outcomes from the report may also influence the development of the new curriculum.

The review's findings will inform strategies to:

- Raise the standards of education and training provision, attainment and infrastructure across Wales so that everyone can reach their potential;
- Deliver a skilled workforce with high quality opportunities for all learners contributing to the creation of growth and jobs;
- Support individuals, families and communities to improve wellbeing by reducing inequality and increasing participation.

My officials will be liaising shortly with their contacts in Estyn regarding specific timescales in relation to fieldwork and proposed publication of the report following the review.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills