

Lynne Neagle MS
Cabinet Secretary for Education

Lesley Griffiths MS
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice

Jayne Bryant MS
Minister for Mental Health and Early Years

22 April 2024

Do disabled children and young people have equal access to education and childcare?

Dear Lynne, Lesley, and Jayne,

As you may be aware, we have been undertaking a wide-ranging inquiry looking at whether disabled and neurodivergent children and young people have equal access to education and childcare. The evidence we have gathered in this inquiry from professionals and children, young people and their families has been very stark, and there have been numerous examples of children and young people's basic right to an education being denied. All the evidence we have gathered is available [online](#).

We concluded our evidence gathering at the end of last year, with an evidence session with your predecessors, the then Ministers for Education and Welsh Language; Social Justice and Chief Whip; and the then Deputy Minister for Social Services. We are currently preparing our report for publication before the end of the summer term, and we are mindful that we will be drawing on evidence from your predecessors.

We therefore wanted to give you an opportunity to provide us with any further information or updates that you believe would be useful for us to have to inform our report and conclusions. You may not feel an update is necessary. In which case, I would be grateful for your confirmation that this is the case. .

The written evidence provided by the Welsh Government previously is available [on our webpage](#): as is [the transcript for the oral evidence session](#).

We would appreciate your response no later than 22 May.

Finally, I look forward to working with you all in my new role as Committee Chair. I plan to build on the excellent work we have done since 2021 under our previous Chair, Jayne, which I've been proud to be involved in from the start.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Buffy Williams', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval border.

Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.