

Kirsty Williams AC/AM  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg  
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-727  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06062/16  
Mike Hedges AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

25 November 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter of 2 November about a petition set up by UNISON Cymru Wales relating to the funding of the professional registration fee for learning support workers from 1 April.

I am aware of this petition and appreciate the opportunity to share my views with you and the Committee. The Welsh Government has recently consulted on fee models for the Education Workforce Council to implement from 1 April 2017. A consultation 'summary of responses' along with a Government response will be published on the Welsh Government website shortly.

Since April 2016, the registration fee for both school and FE learning support workers, FE teachers and school teachers not employed through the School Teachers Pay and Condition Document (STPCD) has been set at £49; for school teachers employed under the STPCD, their fee is set at £78.

The Welsh Government recognises that learning support workers in Wales earn significantly less compared to school and FE teachers; and therefore provides a larger subsidy to reduce their actual fee contribution to £15. The teacher categories are provided with a smaller subsidy that reduces their actual fee contribution to £45.

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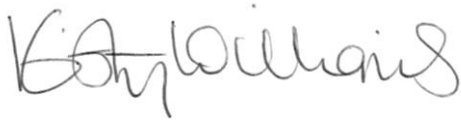
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

From 1 April 2017 and thereafter, the Welsh Government has set aside and ringed fenced £1million to subsidise the registration fee for the whole education workforce. This subsidy is aligned to the fact that Welsh Ministers set the fee level that in real terms ensures that practitioners contribution are kept low.

I am also aware that some Local Authorities are choosing pay the registration fees for their employed learning support workers. Employers of education practitioners in Wales are free to fund professional registration fees if they wish, however, this is something that is not encouraged or supported by the Welsh Government. Employers should be mindful that practitioners are already receiving a government subsidy to help reduce their registration fees.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

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Cabinet Secretary for Education