

**Kirsty Williams AM**  
Cabinet Secretary for Education

20 September 2017

Dear Kirsty,

### **New professional standards for teaching and leadership**

As you will be aware, the Committee is undertaking an inquiry into Teachers' Professional Learning and Education. The Committee has recently taken additional evidence specifically relating to the new professional standards for teaching and leadership, including oral evidence sessions with Professor Mick Waters and the Regional Education Consortia.

The Committee is now considering the evidence received, and is hoping to publish a report on our findings during the autumn term. In relation to the new professional standards specifically, the Committee would like some additional information from you on the following, to help inform its considerations.

On 6 July 2015, a decision was made by the Welsh Government in Cabinet to move in the direction of enhancing the Education Workforce Council powers, including potentially granting them powers in 'improving standards'. The Committee notes that this direction has not been followed, in favour of the approach that was finally adopted. Can you provide details of why the 2015 direction was not followed more fully, including the rationale for this?

In your earlier evidence to the Committee, you confirmed that you had not 'closed the door' on the EWC taking responsibility for standards, but it is not clear to the Committee how the Welsh Government intends the EWC to develop over the coming years. The Committee would be grateful if you could provide clarity on this.

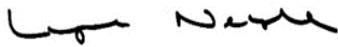
The Committee is also concerned that evidence received suggests there is a 'large gap' between the high level vision and concept of the new standards and the practical mechanisms in place to drive their implementation. Could you clarify who will be responsible for ensuring that the sector is prepared for, adopts and uses the new professional standards?



Finally, can you confirm how these standards will evolve over time, to respond to emergent best practice?

These concerns are likely to be highlighted in the Committee's report, so I would be grateful to receive a response by the end of September 2017, so that the details can be incorporated into our findings.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
**Chair**

