



Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff
CF99 1NA

April 2012

Dear Sir/Madam

Consultation on the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Bill

The Children and Young People Committee is calling for evidence on the general principles of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Bill. To assist with its inquiry, the Committee would welcome your views on this subject.

What is the committee's role?

The role of the committee is to consider and report on the general principles of the Bill. In doing so, the Committee has agreed to work within the following framework:

To consider:

- i. the need for a Bill to make provision about school standards and school organisation;
- ii. whether the Bill achieves its stated purposes;
- iii. the key provisions set out in the Bill and whether they are appropriate to deliver the stated purposes;
- iv. potential barriers to the implementation of the key provisions and whether the Bill takes account of them;
- v. whether there are any unintended consequences arising from the Bill.

What does this Bill seek to achieve?

The Explanatory Memorandum that accompanies the Bill states:

“The [Bill] sets out a number of proposals that will sharpen the accountability of schools by bringing together, updating and

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tightening standards and management. The Bill will reform the statutory process for school organisation so that decisions are taken at the local level wherever possible. Mainstreaming several grant funded programmes will improve the streamlining of current processes. Changing the way Governing Bodies hold their Annual Parents Meetings will provide a means of ensuring that such meetings are more flexibly offered in order to meet the needs of parents. Local authorities and schools will be given greater flexibility over the pricing of school meals. Lastly local authorities will be accountable for planning Welsh-medium provision by the placing of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans on a statutory basis.”

What is a Bill?

A Bill is a draft law. Once a Bill has been considered and passed by the Assembly and given Royal Assent by the Queen, it becomes an ‘Act of the Assembly’.

There is a four stage process for the consideration of a Bill. Stage 1 involves consideration of the general principles of the Bill by a committee (which includes the taking of written and oral evidence from interested parties and stakeholders), and the agreement of those general principles by the Assembly.

Invitation to contribute to the inquiry

The Committee would like to invite you to submit written evidence to assist in its scrutiny of the Bill. In particular, we would welcome your views on the questions listed in Annexe 1.

The Committee welcomes responses from both individuals and organisations. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide a brief description of the role of your organisation.

The Committee welcomes contributions in English or Welsh and will consider responses to the inquiry and hold oral evidence sessions during the summer term.

Further details of the Bill and the accompanying Explanatory Memorandum can be found on the National Assembly’s website at:

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=3633>

Further information on the legislative process can be found at:

<http://www.assemblywales.org/bus-home/bus-legislation/bus-legislation-guidance.htm>

If you wish to submit evidence, please send an electronic copy of your submission to: CYPCommittee@wales.gov.uk

Alternatively, you can write to:

Sarah Sargent, Deputy Clerk
Children and Young People Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, CF99 1NA.

Submissions should arrive by **22 June 2012**. It may not be possible to take into account responses received after this date.

For your information, the Committee has invited submissions from those on the attached distribution list (see Annexe 2). The Committee would be grateful if you could forward a copy of the letter to any individuals or organisations that are not included on this list, but might like to contribute to the inquiry. A copy of this letter has been placed on the National Assembly's website with an open invitation to submit views.

Disclosure of Information

It is normal practice for the National Assembly to publish evidence provided to a Committee. Consequently your response may appear in a report or in supplementary evidence to a report. The National Assembly will not publish information which it considers to be personal data.

In the event of a request for information submitted under UK legislation, it may be necessary to disclose the information that you provide. This may include information which has previously been removed by the National Assembly for publication purposes.

If you are providing any information, other than personal data, which you feel is not suitable for public disclosure, it is up to you to stipulate which parts should not be published and to provide a reasoned argument to support this. The National Assembly will take this into account when publishing information or responding to requests for information.

Yours faithfully



Christine Chapman AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

Consultation Questions

General

1. Is there a need for a Bill to make provision about school standards and school organisation? Please explain your answer.
2. Do you think the Bill, as drafted, delivers the stated objectives as set out in the Explanatory Memorandum? Please explain your answer.
3. What are your views on each of the main parts of the Bill—
 - Part 1 - Introduction (section 1)
 - Part 2 - Standards (sections 2-37) (see pages 9-17, 92-99 of the Explanatory Memorandum)
 - Part 3 - School Organisation (sections 38-84) (see pages 17-21, 99-106 of the Explanatory Memorandum)
 - Part 4 - Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (sections 85-88) (see pages 21-25, 106-107 of the Explanatory Memorandum)
 - Part 5 - Miscellaneous School Functions (sections 89 - 97) (see pages 25-31, 107-109 of the Explanatory Memorandum)
 - Part 6 - General (sections 98-102) (see pages 109-110 of the Explanatory Memorandum)
4. What are the potential barriers to implementing the provisions of the Bill (if any) and does the Bill take account of them?

Powers to make subordinate legislation

5. What are your views on powers in the Bill for Welsh Ministers to make subordinate legislation (i.e. statutory instruments, including regulations, orders and directions)?

In answering this question, you may wish to consider Part 1, Section 5 of the Explanatory Memorandum, which contains a table summarising the powers delegated to Welsh Ministers in the Bill to make orders and regulations, etc.

Financial Implications

6. What are your views on the financial implications of the Bill?

In answering this question you may wish to consider Part 2 of the Explanatory Memorandum (the Regulatory Impact Assessment), which estimates the costs and benefits of implementation of the Bill.

Other comments

7. Are there any other comments you wish to make about specific sections of the Bill?

Distribution List

Teaching Unions
*ASCL
*ATL Cymru
*NAHT Cymru
*NASUWT Cymru
*NUT Cymru
*UCAC
*UCU
Local Authorities
Blaenau Gwent
Bridgend
*Caerphilly
Cardiff
*Carmarthenshire
Ceredigion
*Swansea
Conwy
*Denbighshire
Flintshire
*Gwynedd
Isle of Anglesey
Merthyr Tydfil
Monmouthshire
*Neath Port Talbot
Newport
*Pembrokeshire
*Powys
*Rhondda Cynon Taff
Torfaen
Vale of Glamorgan
*Wrexham
14-19 Learning Networks
Blaenau Gwent
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Ceredigion
Swansea
Conwy
Denbighshire
Flintshire
Gwynedd
Isle of Anglesey
Merthyr Tydfil
Monmouthshire
Neath Port Talbot
Newport
Pembrokeshire

Powys
Rhondda Cynon Taff
Torfaen
Vale of Glamorgan
Wrexham
Official Agencies
*WLGA
*ADEW
*ESTYN
*Children's Commissioner for Wales
Equality and Human Rights Commission
*Welsh Language Board
Voluntary Sector
Wales Council for Voluntary Action
Action for Children
Association for the Welfare of Children in Hospital
Autism Cymru
*Barnardo's Cymru
British Institute of Learning Disabilities
*Children in Wales
*Chwarae Teg
*Citizens Advice Cymru
CLIC Sargent
Contact a Family
Disabled Children Matter
Disability Wales
Downs Syndrome Association
Funky Dragon
Joseph Rowntree Foundation
Learning Disability Wales
Mencap Cymru
Merched y Wawr
Mothers' Union in Wales
Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin
National Autistic Society
*National Deaf Children's Society
National Federation of Women's Institutes
NSPCC
Parents Federation
*Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg
*Save the Children
*Scope Cymru
SNAP Cymru
Stonewall Cymru
Voices from Care
Wales Council for the Blind
Wales Council for Deaf People
The Bevan Foundation
School Food Trust
Parents for Choice
National Association of PTAs
Steve Gullick, Swansea Metropolitan University
Colleges Wales

Careers Wales
*Governors Wales
Sector Skills Councils
Federation of Small Businesses
Confederation of British Industry
Foundation Schools
(FS) Bryn Ellan
(FS) Brynmawr
(FS) Caergeiliog
(FS) Cwmcarn
(FS) Cyres
(FS) Derwen
(FS) Eirias
(FS) Emrys
(FS) Llanerfyl
(FS) Maelors
(FS) Pen Y Bryn
(FS) Stanwell
*Gowerton School Governing Body
*Local Authority Caterers Association
*Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board
*Catholic Education Service for England and Wales
*Llantrisant Primary School
*British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy
*Deeside College
*Granada Learning Group
*Asthma UK Cymru
*Neath Port Talbot School Based Counselling Service
*Monmouthshire Youth Service Face 2 Face Counselling
*Community Dieticians in Wales
*End Child Poverty Network
*British Humanist Association
*HAFAL
*Diverse Cymru
*Pembrokeshire School Counselling Service
*Diocesan Director of Education, The Diocese of Monmouth
*Llysfaen Primary School
*ContinYou Cymru
*Children and Young Persons Partnership Powys
*South West Wales Shared Legal Services Special Interest Group for Education

*Organisations/groups that responded to the Welsh Government's consultation on the School Standards and Organisation Bill White Paper.