

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

Kirsty Williams AM  
Cabinet Secretary for Education  
Welsh Government

06 June 2018

Dear Kirsty,

### **School Organisation Code**

Thank you for your letter of 15 May, responding to the Committee's request of 4 May for further detail about arrangements for the publication of the School Organisation Code.

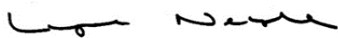
The Committee welcomes your willingness to share the draft Code before it is laid, and your intention to publish responses to last year's consultation before the summer recess. However, Members were concerned to learn that there will be a delay in the laying of the Code from summer to autumn term, and its coming into force from early autumn to the end of the year.

While the Committee understands from correspondence between Government and Committee officials that this postponement has been agreed in order to give consideration to – and consult on – the extension of the designation and list of rural schools, Members are concerned about the continued uncertainty this creates for some schools facing possible closure.

To this end, the Committee would welcome further assurances in relation to:

- the steps you are taking to ensure that local authorities are adhering to your request for them to take, as a starting point, the spirit of your stated policy intention to establish a list of rural schools and to ensure that there is a presumption against closure (Plenary, RoP [para 21], 25 April 2018); and
- the arrangements you will be put in place to protect schools from long-term decisions being made while the Code is not finalised.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**  
Chair



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