

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mick Antoniw AM
Chair
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee
National Assembly for Wales

SeneddCLA@Assembly.Wales

12 October 2018

Dear Mick

Thank you for your letter of 8 October 2018 seeking an explanation as to how the Education (Student Support) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 (SL(5)240) have been made more permissive and how that fits in with the Government response that there is no change in policy or calculation, in determining entitlement.

Regulation 8 amends regulation 93 of the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2018 by replacing a mathematical formula used to calculate a prisoner's reduced entitlement to maintenance support for periods spent in prison with a simple form of words. This approach mirrors that taken with regulations 94 and 95, and these regulations now each contain a straightforward explanation of how support will be calculated in the event of a student's absence from a course rather than utilise a mathematical formula.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment states that '[t]here is no cost associated with this amendment as the regulation has been made more permissive, but it does not alter the calculation that will be applied to determine entitlement'. This confirms clearly that there is no change to the results of the calculation. The Student Loans Company, which operates the system of student support on behalf of the Welsh Government, has not changed the way in which a prisoner's entitlement is calculated as a result of this amendment. The use of 'permissive' is to reflect the change from a formula to a form of words within the clearly articulated context of no change to the entitlement to support.

I trust this satisfies your query.

Yours sincerely

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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.

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light grey background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Kirsty Williams".

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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