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

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

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Kirsty Williams AM  
Minister for Education  
Welsh Government

22 February 2019

Dear Kirsty

### **Developing the new Curriculum for Wales**

Thank you for your **letter** following the Committee's session on 10 January 2019 regarding the development of the new Curriculum for Wales.

As you will be aware, the Committee **wrote to the WLGA and ADEW**, seeking further comments from them on their jointly-submitted written evidence and your response to this in **Committee on 10 January**. Responses from the **WLGA** and **ADEW** were received on 31 January, both of which were shared with your office. In the Committee's meeting this week, Members considered the responses and earlier correspondence alongside further comments you made about the WLGA and ADEW's written evidence in **Plenary on 29 January**.

Both the WLGA and ADEW indicate in their responses that they are supportive of the direction of travel of curriculum reform and the vision set out in Professor Donaldson's report, *Successful Futures*. They also indicate they are committed to engaging with the Welsh Government as fully as possible on this key area. However, they maintain that their joint response to the Committee's call for evidence on progress in developing the new Curriculum for Wales was based on consultation with all 22 local authorities and reflected the views of Education Directors, which in turn reflected those of school leaders.

They also state that the written evidence they jointly submitted in advance of the 10 January scrutiny session (received in December 2018) was based on information available to them at that time. It remains unclear whether this refers to the versions of the draft Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLES) published in May 2018 or the later versions shared amongst those involved in curriculum design during the autumn.



Alongside the matters raised in this correspondence, there also appear to be considerable differences between the views of the WLGA and ADEW, regional consortia, and your own evidence, on progress in relation to curriculum reform, and the strengths and quality of what has been produced so far. The Committee recognises that it is not in a position to comment on the differing views without sight of the details of the plans currently being developed. Nevertheless, Members are keen to see all parties deliver on their respective commitments to improving communication channels. The Committee believes this is necessary to enable everyone within the sector to work towards a shared vision and understanding of curriculum reform, and to deliver that shared vision in genuine partnership.

In light of the information gathered in recent weeks, the Committee is concerned about the apparent disconnect between the Welsh Government and local government on this vital area of education reform. This is especially so given the key dates of April 2019 (publication of the draft curriculum) and January 2020 (publication of the final curriculum) that draw ever closer.

The Committee looks forward to continuing to work with you on this important agenda and scrutinising further the development of the new Curriculum for Wales. The Committee fully intends to monitor progress in curriculum reform closely, including the concerns we have highlighted in this letter, and looks forward to the results of your current consultation on the curriculum reform white paper.

Yours sincerely



**Lynne Neagle AC / AM**  
**Cadeirydd / Chair**

