

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-789
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/05774/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
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11 April 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 3 April about the Welsh Government's commitment to work towards providing asylum seekers with access to the Education Maintenance Allowance and Financial Contingency Fund schemes. Your correspondence has been passed to me as these schemes fall within my portfolio.

The Welsh Government is committed to the Nation of Sanctuary - Refugee and Asylum Seeker Plan. As you have pointed out, the Plan sets out that the Welsh Government will work towards changes for asylum seekers to be eligible for the above schemes from September 2020. Unfortunately, it will not be possible to bring forward this commitment as all changes to student support require a lead in time of around 18 months (partly to allow the SLC time to change their IT systems) and the impact of any new policy change needs to be fully considered. However, I can assure you that my officials are working closely with delivery partners and across government departments to meet the commitment as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

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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.