

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-832
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/06446/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions committee
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24 June 2019

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter dated 14 June on behalf of the Assembly Petitions Committee requesting further information regarding the review of the School Admissions Code, in particular in relation to requests for out of normal age admission of summer-born children.

In my letter dated 18 October, I advised the Committee of the intention to review the School Admissions Code after over five years of operation. The review is comprehensive, covering the whole of the Code, along with the School Admissions Appeals Code and associated regulations.

As part of the review my officials have undertaken informal engagement with key stakeholders, including the Association of Directors of Education in Wales (ADEW) School Admissions Officer Group, which has representation from all admission authorities in Wales, diocesan authorities and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to seek their views based changes that may be required to the Code based on experience of its operation over the period of its operation.

In addition my officials have also engaged with individual admission authorities to gain an understanding of their procedures for dealing with requests for out of normal age admission of summer born children. They have also met with parental representative groups, including the author of the petition P-05-832 and other parents involved in the Summer Born Wales Campaign Group to hear about their experiences and views along with representatives of Bliss to discuss how this issue impacts on children born prematurely.

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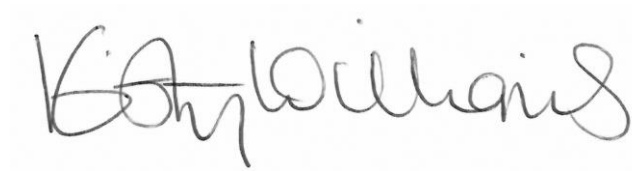
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

My officials are currently in the process of collating and analysing the wide range of evidence and information, which will inform my decision on changes that may be necessary to the Code. This includes consideration of whether and how the Code requires strengthening in respect of out of normal age admission of summer born children. I will be considering this over the summer.

The draft Code will be subject to a 12 week consultation, which will provide anyone with an interest with an opportunity to respond. To ensure a maximum opportunity for parents and schools to engage and respond, I do not propose to commence consultation during the school holiday period. I hope to be in a position to launch a consultation in the autumn.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

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