

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-920
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/07354/19
Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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25 October 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for letter dated 15 October regarding the petition received from the Petitions Committee from Mr Iwan Williams about school budgeting for ALN.

The organisation of all education services is a matter for local authorities and decisions on how to meet the needs of their area are properly for local authorities to make in light of their local needs and demands.

Funding for statutory age education in Wales is provided mainly on a non-hypothecated basis through the Local Government Settlement Revenue Support Grant (RSG). This approach to funding is a key part of the Welsh Government's policy position that local authorities are best placed to deliver these services and that in order to do so well, they require financial flexibility to be able to judge local needs and circumstances and to decide how to allocate their resources accordingly. Of course, schools must take part in this process and local authorities must consult their schools budget forums and all schools in their area when setting a funding formula.

In respect of funding for Special Educational Needs, local authorities and schools are responsible for providing a suitable education for learners, including those with Special Educational Needs. Funding to local authorities for this provision is again not ring-fenced and it is for local authorities to determine how to spend their funding in order to best meet their local needs. Local authorities are however, expected to work with schools to ensure school funding arrangements are effective in supporting and raising the achievement of all learners, regardless of their needs.

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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 £20m package of funding was allocated by the Welsh Government in 2017 to support preparation for the implementation of the new ALN system during this Assembly term.

In a written statement on 17 September I announced changes to the intended timescale for implementation of the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018. Implementation of the new ALN system will commence on a phased basis from September 2021, with the statutory roles created under the Act commencing in January 2021.

The amended timescale will help ensure services are fully prepared for the coming into force of the new system, which in turn will lead to a smoother and more successful implementation. With this in mind I have asked my officials to give careful consideration to whether the remainder of the £20m needs to be re-profiled to reflect the new time period.

I hope this is helpful to you in addressing your concerns.

Yours sincerely,

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

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