

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-922
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/07392/19
Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

28 October 2019

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM,

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-05-922 Withdraw the proposed home education guidance.

With reference to the comment that the draft guidance “*mandates that home educating parents must meet with their local authority and allow their children to be interviewed*”, the guidance advises meeting families at least once a year to ensure the suitability of education is maintained.

Whilst there are no new legal duties placed on local authorities, the draft statutory guidance does represent a shift in current expectations of local authorities, it has been developed to assist them to carry out their existing duty to ensure children receive a suitable education.

The guidance is a draft document and therefore subject to change following detailed consideration of all consultation responses. Officials have met and engaged with a number of home educators and the consultation provides an opportunity for a greater number of views to be heard from a wider range of stakeholders.

The consultation deadline has been extended to 25 October, although officials will also aim to give every consideration to responses received after this date.

We have received a large number of responses and my officials will consider each and every one. I fully expect the guidance will undergo drafting changes as a result of the consultation.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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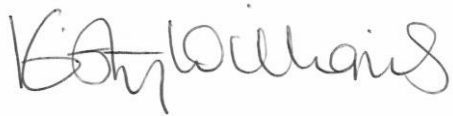
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

This is a highly emotive and contentious matter for some home educators and I am sensitive to their concerns. This is also an area of considerable concern for local authorities, who have sought legislative and policy change on this matter for a considerable time. We are seeking to strike a balance between the expectations of local authorities to discharge their duties in assuring themselves of the suitability of education being delivered, while protecting the choice to home educate and the flexibility home educators have in choosing how they educate their children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

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