

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-923
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/07395/19
Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

29 October 2019

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter regarding Petition P-05-923 “*Are you listening to us? Home Education Rights and Respect!*” from Mountain Movers Education Charity. I recognise that this is an emotive subject for some home educators.

Whilst I acknowledge the contents of the petition I would point out that the statutory guidance is only draft at this stage. The consultation asks a number of questions including what further support home educators would find useful and a series of consultation events were held across Wales. In addition a handbook for home educators containing advice and information about support and how to access it is being consulted on at the same time as the guidance. I genuinely welcome the views of home educators in the consultation and responses so far have demonstrated their passion and commitment. The deadline for responses has been extended to 25 October and where possible officials will continue to take account of responses received after this date.

There have been discussions with both the Children’s Commissioner and local authorities regarding the development of the draft guidance. My officials have tried to engage with the home educating community over the past year but the response has been limited. That is why the consultation is so very important in gathering the views and opinions across the board.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

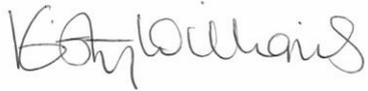
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I will be giving full consideration to all responses received to the consultation and I also expect my officials to undertake further engagement with stakeholders before the draft is finalised. As a result, I would anticipate that the draft guidance will undergo some redrafting before it reaches a final version.

I am clear that the primary policy intent behind the proposals is to ensure that home-educated children and young people receive a suitable education. However, I am conscious that there needs to be balance between the expectations on local authorities and the impact on home educators

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education