



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JM/5128/19

Karen Cornish
Chair
Strategic Implementation Group
Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill

11 December 2019

Dear Karen,

I would like to thank the Strategic Implementation Group, and its Task and Finish Groups, for their detailed work on plans for implementation of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Bill, assuming it receives Royal Assent.

During the Children, Young People and Education Committee's Stage 2 scrutiny of the Bill, there were a series of Non-Government amendments that sought to add detail of what should be included in a post implementation review report on the face of the Bill. The amendments were not agreed.

I do not consider this level of detail is necessary on the face of the Bill, but I do understand the importance of ensuring a comprehensive post implementation review that reports on the effectiveness of the legislation and its impact on front line services.

I would appreciate the Strategic Implementation Group's views on the potential content of a post implementation review report, together with information on the practicality of including the effect the changes to the law by the abolition of the defence of reasonable punishment may have on the issues highlighted in the unsuccessful Stage 2 amendments to the Bill:

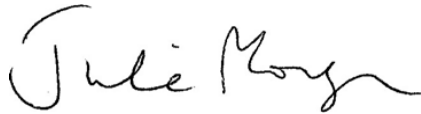
- Number of people prosecuted for corporal punishment of a child taking place in Wales;
- Numbers of children who are being looked after by a local authority in Wales;
- Number of reports made to the police of corporal punishment of a child taking place in Wales and the number of such reports made by members of the public;
- Number of reports made to local authority social services departments in Wales of corporal punishment of a child taking place in Wales and the number of such reports made by members of the public;
- Costs incurred by any devolved Welsh authority (as set out in the Government of Wales Act 2006¹) as a consequence of changes to the law;
- Costs incurred by any devolved Welsh authority for the training of employees as a consequence of these changes to the law; and

¹ <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/32/schedule/9A>

- Number of persons employed by any devolved Welsh authority who have attended training as a consequence of these changes to the law.

I am copying this letter to the Co-Chairs of the Data Collection and Monitoring Task and Finish Group and will also provide a copy of this letter to the Children, Young People and Education Committee for information.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Morgan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Julie' being more prominent than the last name 'Morgan'.

Julie Morgan AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Health and Social Services