

Kirsty Williams AM
Cabinet Secretary for Education

8 October 2018

Dear Kirsty

SL(5)240 – The Education (Student Support) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018

We considered the Education (Student Support) (Wales) (Amendment) Regulations 2018 at our meeting on 17 September 2018, along with the Government response to the reporting point. We subsequently **reported** to the Assembly on 21 September.

The Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2018 originally included a simple formula for working out the amount by which a student grant or loan is reduced when, for example, a student is in prison or is otherwise absent from a higher education course.

These Regulations amend the 2018 Regulations by deleting the formula and replacing it with the words “the amount is reduced by the number of days during the academic year that the eligible student is a prisoner / absent from their course”.

We noted the Welsh Government’s response that replacing the formula with simple words does not change policy. However, we also noted that the Regulatory Impact Assessment states, in relation to both regulations 8 and 9, that “the regulation has been made more permissive”.

We would be grateful for an explanation as to how the Regulations have been made more permissive, and how that fits in with the Government response to our reporting point that there is no change in policy and there is no change in the calculation that will be applied to determine entitlement.



I look forward to receiving your response at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Mick Antoniw'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath the name.

Mick Antoniw AM

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

