

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-832
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02303/18

David J Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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18 October 2018

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter dated 10 October requesting further information in relation to the scope and intended timescales for the review of the *School admissions code*.

The current Code has now been in place for over five years and as such a routine review is timely. We are in the planning process of the review and have yet to develop a clear timeline. However, I expect the review to commence in November, initially focussing on feedback received and lessons learnt over the period of the Code's operation.

In respect of admissions outside the normal age group as stated in my previous response the Code already offers flexibility to admission authorities in considering such requests from parents. The Code is clear that decisions should be made on the basis of the circumstances of each case, in consultation with the parents and the school, and specifically in relation to what is most beneficial to each individual child. I have made clear to admission authorities that I expect the Code to be applied conscientiously. The petition suggests that implementation is inconsistent across local authorities and this is something I wish to explore with admission authorities prior to undertaking more formal consultation on the Code.

This initial period of engagement set out above will inform a subsequent 12 week formal consultation, which will commence in the Spring Term. This will be published on the Welsh Government website and will provide all those with an interest to make their views known.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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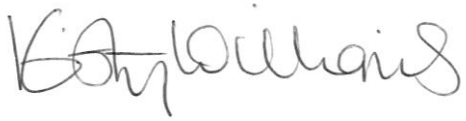
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I hope to be in a position to publish a consultation report in the 2019 summer or autumn term and for the new Code to be in place before the end of the year.

Yours sincerely

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

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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