

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE

SUBMISSION TO THE RICHARD COMMISSION BY THE CHAIR

Examples of where existing powers have constrained policy aspirations

The Committee helps to develop policy and scrutinises its implementation in areas within the Minister's portfolio. This portfolio and the associated statutory powers are set out in the written summary of the Minister's oral evidence to the Commission on 24 October 2002.

The Committee endorses that part of the Minister's evidence containing examples of policy aspirations where either the breadth or depth of the Assembly's powers has been a constraint. In particular, the Committee considers that existing powers are unhelpful in the following areas:

- **Performance Management Procedures for School Teachers**

The Committee would like the Minister to have the power to specify the criteria to be met in Wales for teachers to cross the 'threshold' for performance pay.

- **Financial Support for Students (Assembly Learning Grant Scheme)**

The Committee would like the Minister to have the power to establish a scheme to pay grants to students in higher education, without having to rely on the goodwill of local education authorities.

- **Strategic Planning in the Further and Higher Education Sectors**

The Committee would like to see the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) take a more proactive role in strategic planning. The Committee would also like National Council – ELWa and HEFCW to work together more effectively in the planning and funding of all post-16 education and training, including higher education. This would require primary legislation.