



Jack Sargent MS
Chair
Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru
By email

3rd July 2024

Dear Chair,

We note the letter from the Cabinet Secretary, dated 19th June '24, with regard to our petition "Withdraw plans to change the structure of the school year".

We further note and welcome what the Cabinet Secretary said in the Senedd, during the debate on this critical issue, on the 4th June '24:

*"This is not about reactionary forces. This is about me making a decision based on a 16,000-plus consultation and what I am hearing on the ground about a school system that is struggling and overwhelmed with reform, that is finding it challenging to raise attainment, and which is also struggling for funding. So, that is what I am prioritising, and I make no apologies for that decision."*¹

As education unions, we are pleased that the Cabinet Secretary has listened to our members' concerns, and hope this can be an opportunity to reset discussions with the education unions with regard to the school year.

¹ <https://record.senedd.wales/Plenary/13945#A88371>

We look forward to hearing from the Cabinet Secretary to this end.

Yours sincerely,

Eithne Hughes, ASCL Cymru

Nicola Savage, GMB

Neil Butler, NASUWT Cymru

Laura Doel, NAHT Cymru

Nicola Fitzpatrick, NEU Cymru

Ioan Rhys-Jones, UCAC

Rosie Lewis, Unison Cymru

Cc: Lynne Neagle MS, Cabinet Secretary for Education