

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-236
Ein cyf/Our ref GT/05213/11

William Powell AM

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

16th July 2011

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 29 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee, requesting information on the Welsh Government's evidence to the Family Justice Review.

The Family Justice Review was commissioned by the the Ministry of Justice, the Department for Education and the Welsh Government. Given the Panel was established to be independent and asked to provide recommendations to Government, it was not appropriate for the Welsh Government to submit evidence. I have enclosed copies of my Ministerial Statements of January and June 2010 which you may find helpful in providing additional context.

I am however keen to ensure that the Welsh context is fully recognised and in particular that the rights and voices of children are reflected in this important work. I am particularly pleased therefore that Keith Towler, the Children's Commissioner for Wales, is the Wales representative on the Panel ensuring this is a key priority and strongly advocating the voice of children in Wales.

Evidence gathering and consultation has been extensive, including an event in Wales in September last year for key stakeholders during which Helen Mary Jones AM, David Melding AM and Darren Millar AM presented evidence in their roles as Assembly Committee Chairs, as well as an open discussion consultation event held at the end of May.

Consultation on the Panel's Interim Report Review ended on 23 June and the Final Report is scheduled to be presented to Ministers during the Autumn at which point we will determine our response to the final recommendations. I will ensure that the Committee receives a copy of the Final Report to assist in your consideration of this Petition.

Yours sincerely,

Gwenda Thomas AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Plant a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol
Deputy Minister for Children and Social Services

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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