

Huw Lewis AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-581  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00733/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

21 April 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your further letter in March about Petition P-04-581, following further representations by Helen Myers.

The new, simplified Education Improvement Grant for Schools, which was introduced this month, will give local authorities and education consortia greater flexibility to enable them to target resources more effectively ensuring they are directed to areas where they are most needed to address local, regional and national priorities. In that context decisions about local priorities, including how services are delivered, are matters that are rightly for local determination since regional consortia and local authorities are best placed to understand the needs of their learners. This of course includes those from minority ethnic backgrounds, who might also have additional language needs.

The Welsh Government has been clear that the impact of the new grant must be to improve educational outcomes for all learners and reduce the impact of deprivation on learner outcomes by:

- improving the quality of teaching and learning;
- addressing learners' barriers to learning and improving inclusion;
- improving the leadership of educational settings; and
- improving the provision for learners and the engagement of learners.

While we have not ring-fenced specific amounts within the overall grant, we have been clear with local authorities and consortia that the needs of these learners must be addressed through the business planning process. Consortia have been directed to consider the needs of this learner group in their business planning process for 2015-16. These business plans are subject to the scrutiny and approval of the Welsh Government. The level of resources to be allocated to individual priorities will however be a local decision, but I do of course recognise that pressure on services will continue to grow as the numbers of minority ethnic learners increase and that there will be a disproportionate impact on some areas of Wales.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**

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