

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-646  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/01157/15

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

1 July 2015

Dear William

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition from Lucy Bear, about non-statutory guidance for Local Authorities on elective home education.

In 2012, the Welsh Government consulted on legislative proposals to monitor home education. As detailed in my statement of 6 May 2014, the consultation revealed a divide in opinion between local authorities and home educating communities. Responses to the consultation highlighted the importance of good communication and collaboration between home educating parents and local authorities. It is for this reason that we have focused on developing non-statutory guidance to help local authorities foster closer and more constructive relationships with home educating families.

The guidance, which will supersede Section 6 of the Inclusion and Pupil Support Guidance, will aim to support local authorities in developing trusting positive relationships with home education communities, to encourage effective partnership working.

There exists good practice among some local authorities who have developed strong working partnerships with home educating communities; this has produced positive outcomes for learner, and some of these examples of good practice have been included in the draft guidance currently out for consultation.

My officials made every effort to inform the home educating community of the consultation when it was launched online in May. All respondents to the previous consultation on registration and monitoring were contacted directly (where contact details were provided) to highlight the current consultation, and to request their feedback. Local authority representatives and voluntary organisations such as Save the Children and the Children's Commissioner were also contacted directly. In addition, prior to this consultation, Wavehill Consultants engaged with EHE families and communities across Wales. This engagement informed the development of the draft non-statutory guidance document. The Welsh

Government has no plans to retract what is a consultation document. To do so would risk denying stakeholders the opportunity to express their views, and influence the development of the final guidance document. I would encourage all home education stakeholders to respond to the consultation.

The consultation will close on the 3 July and the guidance will be amended, where appropriate, taking into account the views and issues raised during the consultation by all stakeholders. The non-statutory guidance will be published in September.

Yours sincerely

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

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**  
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