

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

National Assembly for Wales
Petitions Committee

Ann Jones AM
Chair of the Children, Young People
and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

6 August 2015

Dear *Ann*

Petition P-04-552 Child Protection

As you may be aware, the Petitions Committee has been considering the following petition.

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to review and strengthen child protection criteria and consider establishing a regulatory body for Wales. This should aim to ensure that those who have charge of children, whether that's in schools, youth clubs, charities where children are the main focus, or people coming into contact or being invited in as patrons, governors, ambassadors, public servants or anybody appointed by children's charities are assessed as to their suitability to work with and around children.

Additional information: As it stands, local and county councillors and people appointed as ambassadors or Chairs of children's charities do not undergo DBS checks. Most of these people get open door access to children because of their position. In the light of the Jimmy Saville affair and the Ian Watkins affair, will the Welsh Assembly now recognise that we can no longer blindly accept people on the basis of their celebrity or social position and allow them access to children.



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1NA
SeneddDeisebau@cynulliad.cymru
www.cynulliad.cymru/SeneddDeisebau
0300 200 6565

National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1NA
SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales
www.assembly.wales/SeneddPetitions
0300 200 6565



At our meeting on 14 July, the Committee agreed to close the petition. In doing so, we took into account legal advice we have received which suggested that Welsh Ministers and the Assembly's ability to legislate in this area was significantly constrained.

Nevertheless, in closing the petition, the Committee agreed to draw it to your attention for information given your Committee's interest in this area.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bill'.

William Powell AC/AM
Cadeirydd/ Chair