

Alun Davies
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language

16 February 2017

Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill: Supporting Learners with Healthcare Needs guidance

Thank you for your letter of 6 February, and for providing the additional information on the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill (the Bill).

As you will be aware, the Committee has received representations / evidence calling for specific provisions on medical needs in schools to be included within the Bill. It is the Committee's intention to explore this as part of our Stage 1 scrutiny. Part of that scrutiny will relate to the requirements in place for healthcare needs, and as such we welcome your commitment to revising the specific guidance, with the aim of clarifying and strengthening these requirements and expectations.

However, the Committee is concerned that publication of the revised Guidance, scheduled for March 2017, will not provide sufficient time for the Committee to fully consider and take evidence on it during Stage 1. Due to the Easter recess and the reporting deadline, the final Oral evidence session on the Bill will take place on 22 March.

In relation to the Bill as drafted, we realise that healthcare needs are not included within the definition of Additional Learning Needs. However, in order for the Committee to fully consider the issue, and report appropriately, it is vital that the

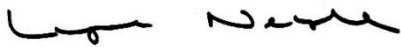


revised guidance is available as part of the evidence gathering process. Consideration of this at Stage 1 will also help inform any decision in relation to potential amendments at Stage 2 (although we appreciate that decisions on admissibility of amendments lies with the Presiding Officer).

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether there is any scope for earlier publication of the revised Healthcare Guidance, or whether it would be possible to provide the Committee with an early version of it in order to assist the Stage 1 scrutiny of this issue.

I look forward to your early consideration of this matter.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Neagle AC / AM
Cadeirydd / Chair

