

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P-KW-1878-18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

25 May 2018

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter of 14 May regarding support for our Minority, Ethnic and Gypsy, Roma and Traveller learners.

I note the concerns of the Committee that the changes to the funding arrangements supporting these groups of learners is seen as a departure from the position outlined in the Committees' inquiry report. I do not believe this is the case. In my letter to you of 17 April, I emphasised that funding for these learners is now a core provision and that I have received assurances from the WLGA that local government will continue to prioritise that support. I welcome these assurances.

My letter of 17 April also provided detail about the £5 million allocated for 2018-19 to the urban authorities of Cardiff, Newport and Swansea, all of which have particularly significant challenges with regard to the numbers of this group of learners located in their authorities. It also explained I have allocated £2.5 million in 2018-19 to facilitate sustainable development of the service on a regional basis.

I have continued to listen to the concerns raised by various stakeholders about the impact of the changes to funding arrangements to support these groups of learners. I have therefore agreed a total of £8.7million in the 2018-19 financial year to support all Local Authorities. This funding recognises that transitioning the service takes time.

The position for 2019-20 will be reviewed as part of setting our firm plans in the autumn. It is however my intention to provide a further £8.7million to all 22 Local Authorities in 2019-20 to support the continuing development of a sustainable model from April 2020. This funding will be conditional on evidence of working progress towards more sustainable models of delivery. My officials wrote to all Chief Executives on Friday 18 May 2018 with their funding allocations for 2018/19.

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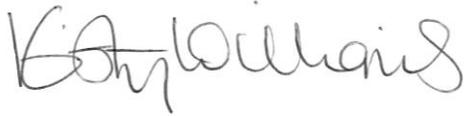
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I do hope that this information will provide you with further assurances regarding the support for these groups of learners and the priority the Government places on supporting all learners to reach their full potential.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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Cabinet Secretary for Education