



Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 May 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM

Petition P-05-751 Recognition of Parental Alienation

Thank you for your letter dated 17 February 2020. I apologise for the delay in responding.

We have read the proposals made by the petitioner for monitoring the implementation of the Cafcass Cymru *Children's Resistance or Refusal to Spend Time with A Parent* guidance and should like to thank them for their suggestions.

However, we wish to reassure the Committee that Cafcass Cymru, as a Directorate of the Welsh Government and accountable to both the Minister and the Director General for Health and Social Services, has the necessary arrangements in place to ensure the accountability of the measures we have put in place for this and all other areas of our work.

The series of practice guidance documents we recently published, of which this guidance document is one, were developed in collaboration with and input from key stakeholders both internal and external to Welsh Government, including the Cafcass Cymru Advisory Committee. The petitioner is a member of that Advisory Committee and has been involved in and consulted on this work. As a member of the Advisory Committee he will continue to be involved in developments around our work.

Cafcass Cymru recognises the importance of the continued professional learning and development of all its staff and has implemented a comprehensive Quality Assurance, Learning and Improvement (QALI) Framework that underpins the ongoing professional development and practice of staff. The Advisory Committee has endorsed the Framework.

We are therefore confident the necessary training and quality assurance arrangements are in place to support and monitor the professional development of our practitioners. All our practitioners have been trained in this area of work and have the opportunity to provide feedback on the application of all our practice guidance so we are able to continue to monitor and review its implementation and effectiveness.



We warmly welcome feedback from service users on all aspects of our service and they can feed back to us at any point in their case – there are details on our website on how they can do this.

I trust the above information addresses the points the Committee raises.

Yours sincerely

Nigel Brown
Chief Executive, Cafcass Cymru