

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-484
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/01667/13

William Powell AM

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21 June 2013

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 12 June, following a submission by Jack Gillum to the Petitions Committee, to allow all children aged 16-19 in full-time education to receive an Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) regardless of their parents' income.

The means-tested EMA Wales Scheme was introduced to address the link between low income and low participation by providing a weekly financial incentive (of £30 per week) to encourage young people (aged 16-19) from low-income households to remain in full-time education beyond the compulsory school age.

The use of means-testing against annual household income is used widely across government when determining support for families or individuals, and is not unique to the EMA Wales Scheme. It is considered to be a fair measure of the resources each household has to meet its needs and is a transparent and practical way of determining entitlement.

I recognise that some young people and families will be disappointed as they fall outside the scope of EMA support, but there has to be a specific cut-off point as support from the public purse cannot be open ended.

It is important that we continue to encourage vulnerable young people to remain in education to reach their full potential during difficult economic times. I have commissioned an independent evaluation of EMA Wales to be undertaken during academic year 2013/14, to ensure that resources continue to remain targeted where they have most impact.

Yours Sincerely

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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