

Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JC/00712/14

Tricia Jones
Funky Dragon

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8 September 2014

Dear Tricia

Thank you for your letter dated 4 August to Mr Eric Pickles MP. As this is a devolved matter this has been transferred to the Welsh Government to reply and as you are aware, I have ministerial responsibility for children and young people's participation.

As I stated in my letter of 24 July to you, I remain committed to seeing children and young people having a voice on a local and national level. Children in Wales' successful CFDG bid states that they, along with their partners, will work with youth forums, networks and other groups across Wales to hear the views of children and young people, raise issues and influence the workings of government.

There is also a significant role for the National Assembly for Wales as the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales, and holds the Welsh Government to account. I was particularly pleased that the Assembly Commission has now agreed and launched a new vision for youth engagement, including providing information about the political landscape and enabling young people to take part in debates in a variety of ways. The Presiding Officer wants the Assembly to be seen as a world leader in youth engagement as young people are enabled to have their opinions on the issues that matter to them heard and valued at the heart of Welsh democracy.

I very recently met with the British Youth Council to explain that the Government remains committed to the principle of youth participation in Wales. I am of a strong belief that the contact between young people representatives from Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and England, through the BYC and UKYP, add value to their experience and to the development of policies in the context of both the UK and Europe.

My officials have also met with BYC together with Children in Wales to productively and pragmatically explore ways in which young people can be represented at the 2014 House of Commons debate. We will continue to work together to explore meaningful representation from local authorities, to continue a pan Wales structure that will feed into the UK Youth Parliament now and in future years.

Yours sincerely

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

Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM

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