

Vaughan Gething AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Iechyd
Deputy Minister for Health



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-588
Ein cyf/Our ref MD/02387/15

William Powell AM
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales
Chair - Petitions Committee
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28 August 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 6 August on behalf of the Petitions Committee and addressed to the Minister for Health and Social Services. I am replying on the Minister's behalf.

You have sought views on two issues raised by the petitioner.

The first concerns the CAF/CASS Cymru Child and Adolescent Welfare Checklist (CC-CAWAC). The CC-CAWAC was developed by Professor Gordon Harold, Professor of Psychology, in collaboration with CAF/CASS Cymru for use by CAF/CASS Cymru in Wales.

As the CC-CAWAC is not currently used by Cafcass in England it would not be in a position to comment on its suitability for publication.

In response to the second issue, I can confirm Welsh Government officials have given detailed consideration on how to record individual parents' engagement with its Family Support programmes. There are, however, a number of difficulties associated with this. For example, in Flying Start, local authorities' recording mechanisms are set up to record information against the eligible child rather than their father or mother.

As a parent, step parent or live-in partner of one child could often be the same for a different child, it is difficult to record this information consistently, especially where grandparents and other relatives also play a parental role. In essence, to record accurately the number of mothers and fathers attending different courses, local authorities would have to manually scrutinise attendance lists to record relationship details.

While we fully expect local authorities to actively promote services to fathers and support their engagement, we would not burden them with time-consuming administrative tasks, such as manually scrutinising attendance lists, when their focus should be on the needs of the child.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

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