

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-310
Ein cyf/Our ref LA/05570/11

William Powell AM

Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 July 2011

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter 14 July 2011 in connection with petition P-03-310 *Policies to protect pupil's needs and rights*.

The proposed Schools and Standards (Wales) Bill is expected to replicate the existing requirement on those bringing forward school organisation proposals that they first consult with interested parties. However, unlike current legislation, the Bill is also expected to make provision for the Welsh Ministers to introduce a statutory code on school organisation with which those bringing forward proposals must comply. I anticipate that this code will place specific expectations and obligations on local authorities and others in relation to the duration, content and conduct of school organisation consultation exercises.

A draft code will be published for consultation in due course. Whilst its content is not yet fully determined, it is likely that it will include the elements included in the consultation document published last November and which can be accessed via the following link:

<http://wales.gov.uk/consultations/education/schoolorg/?lang=en&status=closed>

I believe that the code will support local authorities and other promoters of school reorganisation in adhering to best practice when bringing forward proposals and that the resultant proposals will be more robust and command greater public support in consequence.

Yours sincerely
Leighton Andrews

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

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