

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref OAQ52757
Andrew RT Davies AM
Assembly Member for South Wales Central
National Assembly for Wales,
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

5 November 2018

Dear Andrew

I refer to the Oral Assembly Question (OAQ52757) on 17 October and your subsequent question on the role that schools and education will play to support young people in understanding their role when it comes to casting their vote.

I am writing to outline the work currently being undertaken in line with the Welsh Government and the Assembly Commission's intention to introduce legislation that will, amongst other changes, reduce the voting age in Welsh elections to 16.

During plenary, I outlined current opportunities within the curriculum, such as through the Welsh Baccalaureate and personal and social education (PSE), for pupils to study politics and current affairs. The 'Active Citizenship' theme within PSE allows learners to develop their knowledge on politics, employment and their rights in a democratic society which reflects the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. They also develop a practical understanding of their rights and of the links between political decisions and their own lives.

I will be meeting the Presiding Officer and Alun Davies AM, Cabinet Secretary for Public Services and Local Government in the coming weeks to discuss how to support the legislation, and the recommendation of the Expert Panel on Electoral Reform; *to ensure that young people hear political views from across the spectrum, and are equipped to make up their own minds about how to exercise their democratic right.*

My officials continue to engage with the Electoral Reform Society and their 'Our Voices Heard' project, working directly with children and young people to develop recommendations on how to support them in understanding the role they play when voting. This could include what more can be done through political education in schools, as well as wider recommendations on political engagement and access to information. I look forward to receiving their report later this year and I will be considering what action can be taken in educational institutions, in light of the recommendations of that report.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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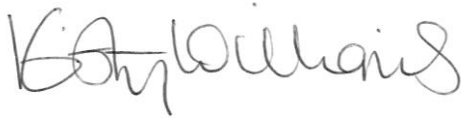
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

We will continue to work across government, and with external bodies to ensure we can successfully enfranchise a new generation to ensure they have a say in issues that affect their lives and their future.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

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