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Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

31 March 2021

Dear Llinos

Lynne Neagle MS wrote on 23 March in her capacity as Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee regarding the Committee's inquiry into education otherwise than at school (EOTAS).

Her letter noted the Committee's work must conclude due to the forthcoming Senedd election. However, she provided some key principles, drawn from the evidence gathered thus far, which she believes provides a foundation upon which future work can be built.

I want to thank the Chair and Committee Members for their work in this area and for providing this further information. I believe the principles outlined in the Chair's letter are shared by the Welsh Government and underpin our existing approach to EOTAS. For instance I have agreed for my officials to work in partnership with the Violence Prevention Unit on a data linking project to better understand the links between educational risk factors and criminal activity. The educational vulnerabilities and crime project aims to link education and crime data to identify variables which indicate a child or young person is at a greater risk than their peers of becoming involved in crime or of being exploited by organised criminal gangs.

However, as the Chair points out it will be a matter for the sixth Welsh Government and new Minister for Education to agree the detail and its future approach to EOTAS, in line with that Government's future strategic priorities. Nevertheless, I'm sure the information provided by the Committee will be valuable in helping inform future policy and practice in this area.

Yours sincerely

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**  
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