

**Gareth Pierce**

Chief Executive, WJEC

22 February 2018

Dear Mr Pierce,

**Availability of text books**

At the Committee's meeting on 15 February, Members discussed press reports about an alleged lack of availability of text books for pupils in schools in Wales. In particular, the Committee was concerned to learn of alleged delays for students studying religious studies with the WJEC.

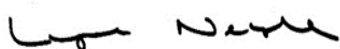
During a scrutiny session on 6 December 2017, the Committee asked questions of Qualifications Wales on this topic. During that session Qualifications Wales commented that they were "comfortable" that text books were available for the "regulated market" but acknowledged that concerns existed in relation to books released via the "commercial market" to which the WJEC provides services (Record of Proceedings, paragraph 17, 6 December 2017).

To inform consideration of whether any further scrutiny work in this area is necessary, the Committee would be grateful if you could provide your assessment of:

- whether there is a shortage of the necessary Welsh-medium, or English-medium, text books for pupils in Wales undertaking their GCSEs and A levels;
- whether you believe any of the reported difficulties will have an impact on pupil outcomes; and
- whether / how you are trying to mitigate any negative impact.

I have copied this letter to Qualifications Wales for its awareness.

Yours sincerely,



**Lynne Neagle AM**

Chair

Cc Philip Blaker, Chief Executive, Qualifications Wales

