

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Addysg**  
**Minister for Education**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Lynne Neagle MS  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

SeneddCYPE@senedd.wales

26 February 2021

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for the Committee's letter of 19 February regarding concerns held by the Third Sector Additional Needs Alliance (TSANA) on the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Code and the implementation of the ALN and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act more generally.

I am acutely aware of the challenges that our most vulnerable learners have faced during this pandemic and these have served to further highlight the importance of ensuring that the system of support for children and young people with ALN is as effective as possible in the future. This is one of the main reasons why I have ensured that the ALN reforms have remained a priority throughout the pandemic.

My officials have worked closely with TSANA during the development of the legislation and the ALN Code. Following public consultation on the draft ALN Code, I can confirm that TSANA's views and those of other respondents were considered carefully when preparing the ALN Code.

I would like to reassure the Committee that changes that have been made to the ALN Code will accommodate the concerns of TSANA (as outlined in their letter) in regard to post-16 learners with ALN, and the skills requirements of ALNCos. I understand that my officials are discussing concerns about reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act and entitlement for an IDP, with the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) to clarify differences in understanding, and I expect that a satisfactory conclusion will be reached shortly.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales)

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.

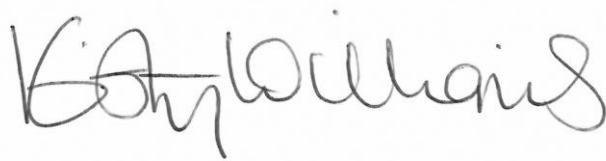
We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The other matters raised by TSANA which include the provision of information and careers advice, and post-16 ALN pathways, will be accounted for in the good practice guidance which will be developed to accompany the ALN Code. The guidance will help ensure that the new ALN system is implemented as intended, and we will work closely with TSANA and other relevant stakeholders in the development of this guidance. If you require any further detail on the concerns raised in the letter, my officials will be able to provide you with further explanation and re-assurance when you meet with them for a technical briefing prior to the plenary debate at the end of March.

Finally, I can confirm that I have already made commitments to review the effectiveness of the ALN reforms. This has been included in the job descriptions of the ALN Transformation Leads who will monitor and review implementation arrangements during the transition period. In addition, there are plans in place and a commitment to undertake a post-implementation review of the ALNET Act 2018 five years after its commencement. This will assess the extent to which the ALNET Act 2018 has had a positive impact on children and young people with ALN in Wales.

I hope this information reassures the Committee regarding the matters raised by TSANA.

Yours sincerely

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

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education