

Owen Evans,
Deputy Permanent Secretary, Education and Public
Services
Welsh Government
Cathays Park
Cardiff CF10 3NQ

22 May 2017

Regional Education Consortia

Dear Owen,

Thank you for attending Public Accounts Committee on 15 May 2017. The Committee found it an interesting and useful session. In addition to the action points which the Clerks have liaised with your office about, the Committee had a number of comments/questions after the meeting with regards to the Welsh Government's position on regional education consortia (the Consortia):

- The Committee welcomes the Cabinet Secretary's announcement on 16 May regarding the establishment of the National Academy for Educational Leadership. We would welcome further clarification on the role of the Consortia within the academy, in particular whether there will be Consortia advisors incorporated and a Consortia advisory accreditation. If the Consortia are not included in this way, is there an in house model within the Consortia?
- The Committee are concerned that there are a limited cohort of qualified and experienced challenge advisors within the Consortia. Given this challenge, we would welcome your views on the capacity of the Consortia to deliver on a strategic level and what can be done to improved quantity of qualitative challenge advisors.



- Given the evidence heard by the Committee that it was difficult to attribute outcomes to the Consortia, and that there was a lack of clarity about their role- is there a common public interface, with a clear, current data set for the Consortia, accessible to public across Wales, and if not, why not?
- The work of School Challenge Cymru is due to end at the end of the academic year 2016/17 and the Committee has requested data showing the percentage of improvement in the key GCSE subjects following the School Challenge Cymru programme. We would also like further information about the relative improved performance of those within School Challenge Cymru versus the non-School Challenge Cymru schools at GCSE.

I would be grateful if you could respond to these questions by 19 June 2017.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Nick Ramsay'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end of the name.

Nick Ramsay AM
Chair

