

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-765 - P-05-757  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/00885/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

[government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

11 April 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 23 March about petitions in relation to collective worship.

The current legislative framework in respect of collective worship in schools raises a number of complex legal issues including Human Rights and Equalities legislation. That does not mean of course that there is necessarily any incompatibility but it is something my officials are exploring in detail. That work is on-going and due to its complexity it is taking some time to complete. This subject area gives rise to a range of often competing interests and can understandably be very emotive. In light of that we need to ensure that our analysis is as rigorous as it can be.

Whilst I appreciate the desire of the Committee to want to know more information, I'm afraid I am not in a position to provide that at this point. It is only after the work referred to above has been completed, will I be in a position to provide an informed answer to the Committee.

As for timescales, I have previously stated that with curriculum reform being a driving focus for schools in Wales, it would not be appropriate to review collective worship until the new curriculum has been established. However, my officials are currently considering all aspects

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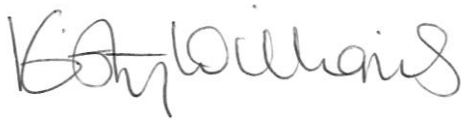
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

of Circular 10/94, relating to both religious education and collective worship, ensuring that guidance on these two matters is fit for purpose.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

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Cabinet Secretary for Education