



Ein cyf/Our ref WAQ73583

Steffan Lewis AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay

8 July 2017

Dear Steffan,

Further to the holding response you received for WAQ73583, I am now in a position to provide you with a response.

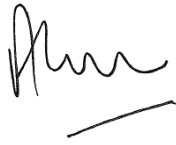
The Welsh Government recognises the importance of supporting those with special educational needs (SEN) within Welsh medium education. Local authorities (LAs) and schools are responsible for providing a suitable education for all children, including those with SEN.

The Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council's draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-20 notes that they have completed an annual review of needs for specialist provision which takes account of the needs in Welsh-medium schools. The draft plan also notes that as a result of the annual review, additional services have been made available through the medium of Welsh through targeted appointment of new staff. The LA has also committed to continued monitoring of demand for SEN provision in Welsh during 2017-20.

You will be aware that on 12 December 2016 the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Bill was introduced to the National Assembly for Wales. The Bill will deliver a new legislative system for supporting children and young people aged 0–25 who have additional learning needs (ALN). The new system will replace the existing legislation surrounding SEN and the assessment of children and young people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities in post-16 education and training.

I am confident the measures we are putting in place through the Bill and wider Transformation Programme will support Welsh speaking learners across Wales, improve their experience, and, ultimately, their educational outcomes.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath.

Alun Davies AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes

Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language