

DP 990/03-04

Jane Davidson AM

Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning
Gweinidog dros Addysg a Dysgu Gydol-Oes

Cardiff Bay / Bae Caerdydd
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CF99 1NA

Our Ref: MB/JD/0153/06

Your Ref:

Jonathan Morgan AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

7 February 2006

Dear Jonathon,

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN: ARRANGEMENTS FOR VETTING AND BARRING PEOPLE WORKING WITH CHILDREN

During my recent plenary statement about List 99 and arrangements for vetting and barring people who work with children you raised a concern about cleaning staff employed by Cardiff City Council.

To avoid unsuitable people working with children, the Assembly Government issued circular guidance 34/2002 "*Preventing unsuitable people from working with children and young people*" (<http://www.wales.gov.uk/subieducationtraining/content/circulars/3402/child-protection-e.pdf>) to schools, local education authorities and others in the education sector about the need to exercise robust pre-appointment procedures to prevent unsuitable people from working with children and young people.

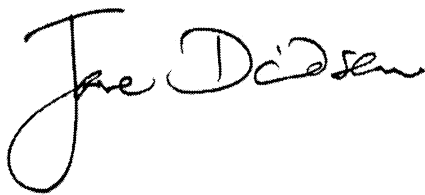
That guidance details the pre-appointment checks that should be made on people whose work brings them into contact with children and that all of the checks should be satisfactorily completed before a person takes up position. These include an appropriate disclosure from the CRB where an employer proposes to appoint an individual to a position whose normal duties will involve regular contact with children.

The issues that you have raised are issues of local management and as such are for Cardiff to respond to, as the relevant employer. My officials have however, spoken with Hugh Knight who has confirmed that you are in correspondence with him on this matter. He also confirmed that where cleaning staff are deployed before their CRB disclosure is received, it is done so at

the discretion of the headteacher, and that those staff are subject to direct and constant supervision and in areas where they do not come into contact with children.

We all have a role to play in ensuring that our children are safe. The Welsh Assembly Government remains totally committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children in Wales.

A copy of this letter has been made available to all members.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Davidson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jane Davidson
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning