

P-04-458 Keep Further Education in the Public Sector – Correspondence from the petitioner to the clerking team

Dear Sian

The Minister's letter fails to address point 1 of our petition that "Further education, along with publicly funded assets, is retained within the public sector." The 2011 Welsh Labour National Assembly for Wales election manifesto declared "FE colleges as public assets which belong to their local communities and its community of staff and learners". The Minister, in his response, has confirmed that colleges could be dissolved, marking the way for the break-up of public-run colleges. Are we going to see Academies and privately-run institutions introduced in Wales? If colleges could be dissolved then it is evident there will be a departure from the current system of publicly-owned and run colleges, which is deeply worrying.

Regards

Ian Whitehead-Ross