

Lesley Griffiths AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd a Gwasanaethau Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Health and Social Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-153  
Ein cyf/Our ref LG/05411/11

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA  
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

 July 2011

Dear Bill,

I am writing further to Christine Chapman's letter of 26 January to my predecessor, Edwina Hart MBE OStJ AM regarding Petition P-03-153 which called upon the National Assembly for Wales to: "place restrictions on the age at which a minor can have body piercing. The age for body piercings, other than the ears and nose, should be regulated up to the age of 16 years". I understand that the Committee did not receive a response to this letter.

The Welsh Labour Manifesto contained a commitment to: "Consult on whether legislation should be introduced which would require the involvement and consent of parents for cosmetic piercing procedures on a young person below a certain age". I intend to issue a consultation paper on this issue shortly and will inform the Committee when the consultation exercise will begin. I will also ensure that the Committee receive details of the stakeholders that will be engaged during the consultation.

The Committee also asked for further information on the Scottish Government position on cosmetic piercing. In January 2001, the then Scottish Executive published a consultation on proposals to introduce controls on skin piercing in Scotland. The consultation set out the existing controls, as they were at the time, and sought comments on their adequacy and any improvements that could be made.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

*Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)*

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300  
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400  
Correspondence.lesley.Griffiths@wales.gsi.gov.uk  
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On 1 April 2006, the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (Licensing of Skin Piercing and Tattooing) Order 2006 came into force in Scotland. This gave Local Authorities in Scotland the power to licence and inspect businesses that carry out skin piercing or tattooing activities. In relation to age, the Order introduced a requirement for written parental consent for body piercing of children under the age of 16. A review into the implementation of the legislation in Scotland is currently taking place and is due to report shortly.

Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Lesley', written in black ink.

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

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