Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-517 Ein cyf/Our ref HL/02032/13

William Powell AM

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Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 16 December, in which you enclose a petition from New Foundation Home Education.

You may be aware that last year the Welsh Government undertook a consultation on legislative proposals to introduce a compulsory registration and monitoring scheme for electively home educated children. 550 responses were received to the consultation. The Minister made a statement on 21 December 2012 that, in view of the level of response raised by the consultation, he would not be proceeding with the proposed legislative changes as part of the Education (Wales) Bill to allow time for full consideration of views.

Officials have now completed this review and a formal response to the consultation will be published in due course. The Minister will be reflecting on any future plans in light of the consultation responses, and will set out any future plans in a ministerial statement.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child was given due regard throughout the consultation process. Workshops were held in which electively home educated children were invited to discuss and explore the proposals; a child-friendly version of the consultation document was also created, presented in plain English.

These workshops were facilitated by Youth Friendly and detailed notes were taken. A report which captures the comments and feedback from the sessions is being prepared, and will be published in due course.

Yours sincerely

Huw Lewis AC / AM

Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau Minister for Education and Skills