

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/15511

Andrew Selous MP
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice
102 Petty France
London SW1H 9AJ

28 November 2014

general.queries@justice.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your letter dated 16 October about the consultation on the plans for Secure College Rules, addressed to myself and Huw Lewis, Minister for Education and Skills. I have attached the Welsh Government response to the consultation.

Our fundamental position is that children and young people should be kept out of custody as far as possible. Where custodial sentences are unavoidable, children and young people should have access to the full range of services which will help to address the underlying causes of their offending, particularly education and mental health services, as well as clear plans for resettlement and reintegration on release. Since young people from Wales will be released to Wales, plans for resettlement and integration will need to be relevant in the context of devolved services. All Secure Colleges, once built, must fulfil these requirements.

In our response to the 'Transforming Youth Custody' consultation, dated 17 April 2013, which set out your proposals for Secure Colleges, we highlighted our concerns about the lack of reference to how education is delivered in Wales. It is therefore disappointing to see that our representations have not yet been addressed, and that the increasingly divergent approach to education in Wales has not been adequately recognised. Our response attached sets out these concerns in more detail.

I know our officials have been in discussion with yours on specific issues relating to the rules. Our officials will be happy to continue to work with yours as the details of the proposals are developed.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales.

Yours sincerely,
Leighton Andrews

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus
Minister for Public Services

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.Leighton.Andrews@wales.gsi.gov.uk
Printed on 100% recycled paper