

11 January 2023

Dear Mr Wilton-King

**Complaint in respect of ATISN 16661 – Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE)**

Thank you for your request for an internal review of the handling of your request for information under the above reference, which we received on 11 November 2022.

Your original request, which was received on 14 September and replied to on 13 October 2022 sought:

*Between March and September 2017, an expert panel, chaired by Cardiff University Professor EJ Renold, held five meetings to discuss the future of Welsh Sex and Relationships Education.*

- 1. The Meeting minutes for the Expert Panel meetings, chaired by Professor EJ Renold for the five meetings held between March and September 2017.*
- 2. A list of attendees for each of those five meetings.*

In your request for an internal review you stated:

*I am writing to request an internal review of Welsh Government's handling of my FOI request 'Meeting minutes & attendees of the expert panel who informed the development of the future Sex and Relationships (SRE). The Welsh Government has failed to respond in time to my previous reply. I also requesting this review with particular focus on the public interest test, which I think has overlooked some important points in favour of disclosure.*

*Please read my last reply, which outlines why I feel it was wrong to use exemption 35(l) a. But just in case, I want to restate here...it is disingenuous to assert that this policy is "still being developed" and "continues to be refined through a co-construction approach" as the policy in question is now written into law and mandatory for all schools in Wales with parents being refused the right to withdraw. This policy is in place and being utilised.*

*Also, re my request for the meeting attendees...I was only directed to a document which listed the Expert Panel and not the attendees of each meeting.*

After considering the matters raised, I have concluded that the original response to the request for information should be upheld.

On the first part of the request (to receive copies of the minutes) I am satisfied that regardless of the passing into law of the Curriculum (Wales) Act, these are matters which remain subject to ongoing policy development. While the Act sets the overarching

framework for the Curriculum, the implementation of the Curriculum and the shape of lessons pertaining to these and all other subjects within the Curriculum are matters to be determined by individual schools. As a consequence, there remains debate around how to implement these aspects of the Curriculum. Furthermore the Curriculum for Wales is being rolled out on a phased basis, meaning these matters will remain subject to debate and discussion for some time to come.

I believe these matters were appropriately considered in line with the requirements of the public interest test.

On the second part of the request (to know who attended specific meetings) I am satisfied that the release of the membership of the expert panel meets this request.

### **Next steps**

I have considered your complaint in accordance with the procedure outlined in the [Welsh Government's Practical Guide for Making Requests for Information](#) which is available by post on request or via the internet.

If you remain dissatisfied with this response you have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

Yours sincerely,

**Nicola Edwards**  
**Deputy Director, Early Years, Childcare & Play**