



17 March 2026

Dear colleague,

I am writing following the publication of the three-year Post Implementation Review of the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020. The Act provides children in Wales with the same protection from assault as adults and means the physical punishment of children is prohibited in all settings in Wales.

The findings of the Post Implementation Review are encouraging. Implementation is progressing well and largely as intended, supporting the core aim of upholding children's rights while promoting an educational and preventative approach that avoids criminalising parents. Public attitudes, professional practice, and service delivery increasingly reflect the shift away from physical punishment.

However, the review also highlights that awareness of existing implementation resources is inconsistent across some professional groups. To support continued effective implementation, I would be grateful if you could:

- raise awareness across your organisation of the extensive resources produced to support professionals in implementing the Act, and
- embed links to them within workforce development, safeguarding and induction processes.

Ensuring that those working with children and their families have access to clear, accurate and consistent information about the law is essential to maintaining the progress achieved so far.

A full suite of support materials remains available on the Welsh Government's [Ending Physical Punishment campaign website](#). These include:

- general information leaflets
- sector-specific factsheets including for police, CPS, legal, health, social services, education, childcare/playwork
- FAQs
- training materials and e-learning
- professional-perspective videos
- multilingual leaflets for parents
- a poster
- a short film explaining the law.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Dawn.Bowden@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Dawn.Bowden@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The combined effect of the law change, public engagement, and support for parents aims to continue reducing the use and tolerance of physical punishment. The Act's overarching objective is to protect children and their rights, in line with the Welsh Government's longstanding commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).

This work sits within a wider system of parenting support, including the [Parenting. Give it time](#) campaign and targeted programmes such as Flying Start and Families First, as well as universal services provided by midwives, health visitors, GPs and family information services.

I would like to acknowledge the support and expertise of all those who have contributed to implementing the Act over recent years. Your leadership is central to maintaining momentum and ensuring families across Wales continue to receive consistent support and messaging.

If you have any questions, please contact - endphysicalpunishment@gov.wales.

Thank you for your ongoing support and for the vital work you do for children and families.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dawn Bowden AS/MS

Y Gweinidog Plant a Gofal Cymdeithasol
Minister for Children and Social Care