

Jeff Cuthbert AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Sgiliau
Deputy Minister for Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-432
Ein cyf/Our ref JC/05485/12

William Powell AM

Chair
Petition's committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

4 December 2012

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of the 13 November which calls upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Government to recommend that the armed forces should not go into schools for recruitment purposes. This letter has been passed to me by the Minister for Education and Skills. I am responding as this matter falls within my portfolio.

Firstly I would emphasise that responsibility for the control of the use of school premises rests with the Governing Body. It is the Head Teacher who is responsible for the internal organisation, planning and day to day management of the school, which includes deciding who can enter the school premises. Therefore the responsibility over who should come into the school to talk to pupils rests with the Head Teacher. Welsh Ministers have no direct powers in the matter but I should be clear that neither would we wish to discourage positive engagement with representatives of the armed forces.

The Welsh Government also sees the provision of impartial and balanced careers information, advice and guidance for young people as a key component of its lifelong learning agenda. This service is delivered through Careers Wales. Schools and Governing Bodies have a responsibility to respond to the needs of pupils and provide them with appropriate careers education provision which is laid out in the Careers and the World of Work Curriculum Framework. This is to develop in pupils the skills necessary to make informed decisions and manage their own career pathways. Schools should also support pupils by providing access to advice and guidance on potential careers. In this respect all young people in secondary education are entitled to receive a programme of school support from the age of 11 to help them make effective transitions to post 16 learning or employment. Educational visits from a vast range of potential employers take place against this background of provision.

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It is in this context that Governing Bodies make their decisions about which organisations should be able to visit a school. Restricting armed forces access to schools, as this petition suggests, may possibly disadvantage some young people as they will not have access to information about a full range of careers, including some which offer training of a very high quality.

Best wishes
Jeff Cuthbert

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