

Dawn Bowden AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Plant a Gofal  
Cymdeithasol Minister or Children and  
Social Care



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein *cyf*/Our ref MA/DB/11094/24

Buffy Williams MS  
Chair  
Children, Young People and Education Committee

21 January 2025

Dear Buffy,

Today I have published a Written Statement on the first of two post implementation review reports on the Children (Abolition of Defence of Reasonable Punishment) (Wales) Act 2020.

The legislation requires that 'the first report must be prepared as soon as practicable after the expiry of the period of 3 years beginning with the coming into force of section 1' of the Act. Welsh Ministers must also, as soon as practicable after preparing a report, lay the report before the Senedd and publish the report'.

The Children, Young People and Education Committee played an integral role in the passing of this landmark legislation and in determining the parameters of the post implementation review. I wanted to take this opportunity to set out my intentions for the post implementation review report.

In March 2021, my predecessor, Julie Morgan MS, wrote to the then Chair of the Committee (a copy can be found here [Eich cyf](#) (Eng)/[Eich cyf](#) (Cym)) setting out the areas the review would cover which include:

- the impact on public services;
- awareness of the law and attitudes to physical punishment; and
- stakeholder views and experiences.

The letter also outlined plans for data collection and monitoring, based on the recommendations made the Data Collection and Monitoring (DCM) task and finish group.

We have a suite of data and research activity underway to support each element of the review, including:

- Survey results tracking awareness of the legislation and attitudes towards physical punishment of children (which will include the views of parents and children);
- Data collection and monitoring in relation to the impact on Public Services; and
- Qualitative research with practitioners to understand any ways in which the change in law has affected frontline delivery.

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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.

As set out in my Statement, the review will provide a synthesis of the available data and evidence gathered over the three-year period to consider the impact of the change in law.

Our intention is to include data from the Police; Social Services; Crown and Prosecution Service; and local authorities in relation to Out of Court disposal scheme. Due to the nature of the data and collection requirements, data will be made available to us at different points in the year. We also need to allow sufficient time for analyses and quality assurance of the data once received.

It is expected that the synthesis of data and evidence will be ongoing until Autumn this year and it is, therefore, my intention that the final report will be laid before the close of 2025.

I hope the Committee finds this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden', written in a cursive style.

**Dawn Bowden AS/MS**

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Minister for Children and Social Care