

**Y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl
Ifanc ac Addysg**

**Children, Young
People and Education
Committee**

Rocio Cifuentes

Children's Commissioner for Wales

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Children's Wellbeing and Schools Bill LCM

Dear Rocio,

Thank you for your recent letter about this LCM. As you know it has been referred to us for consideration, along with consideration by the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, with a reporting deadline of 11 July 2025.

We first considered this at our meeting on 2 April, and we agreed to write to you on one specific issue within the LCM, given our in-depth work and scrutiny of policies and legislation aimed at promoting the rights of care experienced children.

We are interested in any views you have on the provisions in Clause 11 of the Bill (introduced as Clause 10) as they will apply to children accommodated by Welsh local authorities.

The Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum sets out that Clause 11 amends the circumstances in which a child who is being looked after by a local authority may be deprived of their liberty and sets out the conditions that must be met before placing them in a secure accommodation setting. The amendment in Clause 11 would mean children may be deprived of their liberty and accommodated in a new type of accommodation as an alternative to the existing "secure accommodation" setting that is already set out in section 25 of the Children Act 1989.

We would welcome any views you have on this and specifically paragraph 21 of the LCM, which says:



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A change to the law to include Welsh Local Authorities in the test to be applied when placing children in "relevant accommodation" in England will ensure that children benefit from the safeguards and protections afforded by a statutory scheme.

We are also writing to the Cabinet Secretary for Education on matters relating to legislative consent on some clauses.

We would appreciate a response by Thursday 12 June. If you envisage any issues with this deadline, please let the Committee Clerk know.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Children, Young People and Education Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.