

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1317
Ein cyf/Our ref LN/00526/25

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair - Petitions committee

2 June 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter dated 30 April 2025 regarding petition P-06-1317.

You will be aware that we in the Welsh Government do not have responsibility for the employment and pay of support staff and that it is for local authorities as employers to address these concerns.

Negotiations on local government staff pay and conditions, including school support staff, are currently negotiated directly between unions and local authorities in Wales and on an all Wales and England basis by agreement through the National Joint Council (NJC). The Welsh Government does not play a part in these negotiations.

I have however made it clear that pay and conditions for school support staff are a priority for me, and I am committed to ensure their contribution is better recognised both through pay and wider support. I held a round table with Teaching Assistants in November to hear directly from them regarding their concerns and where they would like to see improvements. I will be working with trade union partners and the WLGA to look at recruitment and retention, professional learning and terms and conditions for Teaching Assistants as part of the work I am taking forward to develop the Strategic Education Workforce Plan I announced earlier this year.

Yours sincerely,

Lynne Neagle AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

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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.