

Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair, Petitions Committee

14 July 2025

Re. Petition P-06-1499 Stop the use of term 'Universal Provision' as a reason to deny ALN

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for **your letter dated 24 June** bringing the above petition to our attention.

As you note in your letter, we are currently undertaking **a Senedd-long inquiry** into the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales and the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018 ("the ALN Act"). The petition raises a concern that we have heard frequently throughout our inquiry: that some schools and local authorities are not recognising that children have ALN because they believe that their learning needs can be met via so-called 'universal provision'. These concerns have been raised in the context of the significant reduction (44%) in the numbers of children who are formally identified as having Special Educational Needs/ALN since the introduction of the ALN Act.¹

We currently have no plans to consider the petitioner's specific request to prevent the use of the term 'universal provision'. However, in our July 2024 interim report we recommended that the Welsh Government define what 'universal provision' means in practice to better understand the point at which routine differentiation tips into Additional Learning Provision.² The Welsh Government accepted this recommendation, and has confirmed that this issue would be considered as part of a review due to report during summer 2025.³ We will therefore be considering this issue, and the implementation of the ALN Act more broadly, as part of our work on this inquiry in the autumn 2025/spring 2026. This petition will form part of the evidence feeding into that work.

¹ Welsh Parliament, '**Implementation of education reforms: In Brief**', 14 October 2024

² Welsh Parliament, '**Implementation of education reforms: Interim report**', July 2024, paragraphs 64-66

³ Welsh Government, '**The Implementation of education reforms: Response to the CYPE Committee interim report (July 2024)**', 11 September 2024, page 4

More details about the inquiry can be found on our [inquiry web page](#), which contains a link to our open consultation, to which the petitioner can respond. We also issue periodic email updates to individuals and stakeholders who have expressed an interest in our work. If the petitioner would like to receive these updates please ask them to contact us to request to be added to our mailing list.

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.