

Elizabeth Nonweiler,
Chair of the Reading Reform Foundation UK

1 December 2025

Invitation to Provide Views on Welsh Government Expert Literacy Panel

Dear Mrs Nonweiler,

I am writing on behalf of the Children, Young People and Education Committee. We are a cross-party group of Members of the Senedd who are responsible for scrutinising the Welsh Government and other Welsh public bodies on matters relating to children, young people and education in Wales.

This correspondence is being sent privately in the first instance. You are welcome to respond in private if you wish. However, should you be content for your reply to be shared publicly, we would then publish both our letter and your response.

We recently held an evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Education on 6 November 2025 concerning school improvement and learner attainment. The record of proceedings is available on the Senedd website [here](#). During that session we explored issues around literacy, curriculum reform and effectiveness of current improvement structures, including the work of the Welsh Government Expert Literacy Panel. Paragraphs 158 to 188 are the relevant part of the transcript.

Building on these discussions, we would welcome your honest and frank views on the following:

1. How sincere you believe the panel and its members are in their work.
2. Whether, in your view, the panel is weighted towards one particular methodology in literacy teaching and reading techniques.
3. Whether the current composition of the panel, and the absence of significant practitioner or educator representation, undermines its credibility or effectiveness.

4. The prospects for the panel's work to support improvement of educational standards.
5. Any further concerns you would wish to have noted, beyond those already expressed in your open letter of resignation.

We acknowledge the significance of your resignation and the concerns you have raised publicly. We think it is essential to understand whether there are wider structural, methodological or cultural issues that you believe we should take into account as part of our continuing scrutiny of education policy.

Please be assured that our intention is to gather perspectives in a balanced and respectful manner. Your insights, whether shared privately or publicly, will help inform our understanding of how literacy policy and practice are being shaped in Wales, and whether they are meeting the needs of learners effectively.

Thank you for considering this request. We look forward to hearing from you in whatever format you feel most appropriate. If you would like to discuss this request in further detail, please contact Naomi Stocks, Clerk on either naomi.stocks@senedd.wales or 0300 200 6222.

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.