

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/KW/1793/18

Lynne Neagle AM
Chair
Children, Young People and Education Committee

18 May 2018

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your letter requesting clarification on the level of engagement between myself and/or my officials and Professor Ainscow since March 2017. I can confirm my official's account is accurate and there is no conflict with the summary we gave on 11 April.

The Committee asked about the level of engagement between Welsh Government and Professor Ainscow after March 2017, chiefly, to ensure lessons were learned and benefits shared across the system. In the Committee session, I gave evidence on the discussions I'd had with other leaders in the programme, the regional consortia, the local authorities and the schools involved. I did not say I had met with him since March 2017. My point was that Professor Ainscow was not the only source of knowledge from the programme.

Mr Davies indicated at that session that he believed he had engaged with Professor Ainscow after March and said he would check following the evidence session. Darren Millar AM asked "*Since last March, I literally have had no contact at all with anybody from Welsh Government, he was telling porky pies, was he?*"

My previous response outlined the engagement between officials and Professor Ainscow. I confirm and clarify these below:

- Steve Davies and Owen Evans met with him in March 2017;
- Officials corresponded with Professor Ainscow regarding the Schools Challenge Cymru evaluation report during June 2017. The evaluation report specifically related to what worked, didn't work and lessons learned which would help knowledge transfer; and
- Senior officials met with Professor Ainscow during the celebration event with schools in July 2017.

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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.

Therefore, I can confirm that the Welsh Government had been in contact with Professor Ainscow up until July 2017, when the programme formally ended. I am satisfied that we have taken steps to ensure the experience from Schools Challenge Cymru programme is transferred into the school improvement activity of the regional education consortia.

I hope this satisfies your query.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long, sweeping tail.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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