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**Janet Finch-Saunders, AM**  
**Chair of the Petitions Committee**  
**National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee**  
**Cardiff Bay**  
**Cardiff**  
**CF99 1NA**

18 April 2019

Dear Ms Finch-Saunders

**Re: P-05-788 Remove the compulsory aspect of Welsh Baccalaureate**

Thank you for your letter dated 20 March 2019 in relation to the above case being reviewed by the National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee.

Firstly, I would like to personally apologise that you did not receive a response from WJEC to your original request. This was due to a combination of senior management changes and internal misunderstanding in relation to the submission of a response. We are currently reviewing our procedures to ensure that an error like this does not occur again.

I understand the concerns raised as the following:

- **Petition regarding the compulsory aspect of the Welsh Baccalaureate**

We understand the concerns raised, however, as an awarding organisation, our role is to provide qualifications that meet the requirements of the governing body. In the case of the Welsh Baccalaureate, this was established by the Welsh Government and is regulated by Qualifications Wales. As the petition relates to the requirements of the qualification, this petition should be directed to either the Welsh Government and/or Qualifications Wales.

- **Petition regarding the suitability of tasks associated with the Welsh Baccalaureate**

Having reviewed the current range of approved tasks included for our Welsh Baccalaureate qualifications, I can confirm that there are no WJEC approved tasks based on gambling and/or scratch cards. However, we have identified a supporting task in our collaboration area, which was developed by a Welsh Baccalaureate practitioner, where learners are asked to plan spending of £1,000 won on scratch cards. Whilst the task had no suggestion that learners should/would be engaging in any form of gambling, we have since removed this from our website.

If you would like to discuss this further, our Welsh Baccalaureate team would welcome a telephone or face-to-face conversation at a time that would be suitable for yourself. If this would be of interest, please contact Lorna Turner, Executive Assistant via [lorna.turner@wjec.co.uk](mailto:lorna.turner@wjec.co.uk) or 029 2026 5300.

Yours sincerely

**Roderic Gillespie**  
Chief Executive