

Kirsty Williams AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Addysg  
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Llyr Gruffydd MS  
Chair of the Finance Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
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23 February 2021

Dear Llyr,

Today I laid an updated version of the Explanatory Memorandum for the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Bill. In response to the recommendations made by the Finance Committee in the end of stage 1 report the revisions to the RIA are set out below.

### **Accept or Accept in Part Finance Committee Recommendations:**

#### **The Welsh Government identifies how it will define and evaluate the success of the new Curriculum and outlines this in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment**

Chapter 11 of the RIA has been updated to explain how success definitions and indicators will be developed as part of the evaluation scoping study in 2021. Some examples, taken from the Curriculum Implementation Plan, and an indicative timeline have also been included.

#### **The Welsh Government undertakes further work to assess the costs to schools and engages with schools other than Innovation Schools regarding the costs included in the RIA. Information gathered should be represented in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment.**

Further work to estimate costs has not been possible because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The RIA has been updated with details of research and engagement with a wide range of schools that is planned for 2021, including a readiness assessment and co-construction work with schools via a National Network. This information

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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.

will be used to update the cost estimates, which will be shared with the Senedd later in 2021.

**The Welsh Government undertakes further work to define and estimate the costs for 'Education Other Than At School' and assessment arrangements costs in consultation with stakeholders. This information should be provided in a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment**

As stated above, further work to estimate costs has not been possible because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In the meantime, the RIA has been updated with details of research and engagement with a wide range of schools and settings that is planned for 2021, including a readiness assessment and co-construction work with schools and settings via a National Network. This information will be used to update the cost estimates, which will be shared with the Senedd later in 2021.

**The Welsh Government details all sunk costs relating to the Bill in the same part of a revised Regulatory Impact Assessment.**

All sunk costs are located in the same part of the updated RIA.

**The Welsh Government should provide the detail on its discussions with stakeholders around the potential costs to the post-16 education system and publish any details of the financial implications.**

The RIA has been updated with this information, which reflects the information set out in my letter to you of 20 November 2020 (attached at **Annex A** for reference).

**The Welsh Government provides details of how it will review the costs provided by stakeholders (and advise the Senedd of those costs) and the timescales of implementation.**

Following my letter to you of 20 November 2020, the RIA has been updated to reflect the feedback from stakeholders in the cost section.

Also, to be aware, the original RIA set out the administrative cost to Welsh Government over the ten-year appraisal period (2021-22 to 2030-31) of approximately £175m. Between 2021-22 and 2025-26, the cost per annum will be £25m - £26m before falling to approximately £10m per annum from 2026-27 onwards.

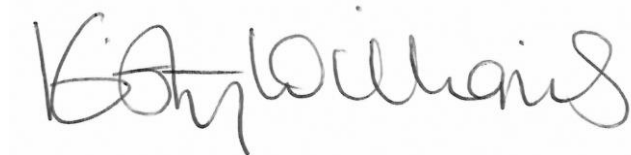
The revised RIA includes a revised profiling of the Qualifications Wales cost estimated as advised by Qualification Wales due to spend/activity in the current financial year being lower than anticipated when the original RIA was written. The result of this is that more of the Qualification Wales costs have been pushed into the 2021-22 to 2030-21 appraisal period. The £1.350m for 2021-22 is in line with the funding allocated to Qualifications Wales for curriculum reform.

There is a reduction in the estimated additional cost for providing Welsh language/bilingual resources – an estimate of £3.17m per annum was included in the original RIA but this has been revised down to £1m in 2021-22 and £2m in each of the remaining years in the appraisal period.

In terms of the headline cost figures in the RIA, the net effect of these changes has been to reduce the estimated cost of the Bill. The revised RIA now sets out the administrative cost to Welsh Government over the ten-year appraisal period (2021-22 to 2030-31) to be approximately £163m. In 2021-22 the estimated cost is revised to £23.4m (was £25.6m), increasing to £24m between 2022-23 to 2025-26 (was £25-26m), before falling to approximately £9m per annum was £10m) from 2026-27 onwards.

This letter has been copied to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**  
**Y Gweinidog Addysg**  
**Minister for Education**