



School Effectiveness Division
Education Directorate
Welsh Government
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09 December 2020

Dear colleague,

Consultation on the proposed Education Workforce Council (Interim Suspension Orders) (Additional Functions) (Wales) Order 2021

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your consultation on the proposed Education Workforce Council (Interim Suspension Orders) (Additional Functions) (Wales) Order. We did not consider that we needed to provide a response to the whole questionnaire, but would like this letter to be included in the consultation responses to indicate our full support for the overall proposal for the EWC to be given powers to suspend registrants in the circumstances outlined in the consultation document.

We responded positively to the Education Workforce Council's (EWC's) earlier consultation and now that the Bill is being consulted on, we would like to reiterate our support to these powers being given to the EWC.

We already work closely with the EWC and share similar primary aims, especially our focus on safeguarding the interests of learners. Similarly, EWC maintains public confidence in the education workforce, we ensure that qualifications and the qualification system are effective to meet the reasonable needs of learners, and promotes public confidence.

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Our regulatory role includes monitoring and auditing the activities of awarding bodies, investigating complaints, including malpractice, and where necessary, using our enforcement powers to protect the interests of learners and ensure that appropriate standards for qualifications are set and maintained.

We therefore also have an active interest in fellow regulators within the education and skills sector having appropriate powers.

Support for the proposed order

The consultation document sets out that the primary purpose of the imposition of an interim suspension order is to ensure the protection and safeguarding of children and young people, and that if given, the powers would be used only in very serious cases where the EWC considers it necessary in the public interest.

We consider that giving the EWC these powers for the purposes described would support the overall aim of protecting the interests of learners, and is important to provide additional safeguards to learners. We also consider that it will promote public confidence, by reassuring parents, guardians and stakeholders about the conduct and practice of a registrant with the EWC.

In closing, we wholly support these powers being given to the EWC.

You are welcome to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of our response further.

Yours sincerely,



Philip Blaker
Chief Executive