

Ministerial Advice

To: 1. Claire Rowlands, 2. Cabinet Secretary for Education

From: Pete Kennedy, Curriculum, Assessment and Pedagogy Division

Date: 14 February 2018

Subject: Collective Worship

MATS Reference number: MA-(P) / KW/0145/18

When is a decision required from the Minister? 23 February 2018

What is the issue you are asking the Minister to consider?

- 1.1. The National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee has received two petitions on the subject of collective worship.
- 1.2. A petition **against** collective worship was posted on the National Assembly for Wales' website on 21 April and amassed **1,333 signatures**. A petition **for** collective worship was also posted on the National Assembly for Wales' website on 22 May, and amassed **2,209 signatures**.
- 1.3. You have written twice to David J Rowlands AM, Chair of the National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee regarding the two petitions on collective worship; initially in July and subsequently in September, 2017.

What action(s) are you recommending to the Minister?

- 2.1. It is recommended that the Cabinet Secretary for Education:
 - a. Agree to the draft correspondence to the Chair of the National Assembly for Wales Petitions Committee, at Doc 1.

Deputy Director, Statement of Assurance

I, *Claire Rowlands*, confirm that I have quality assured this advice.

I am satisfied that the recommended decision or action, if agreed, would be lawful and affordable. Welsh Government policy priorities and cross portfolio implications have been fully considered, in line with delivery of the [government objectives](#) in [Prosperity for all: the national strategy](#).

What legal or policy obligations are relevant to this advice?

- 3.1 Recommendation 9 of Successful Futures states that Religious Education should form part of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience, and should remain a statutory curriculum requirement from reception.
- 3.2 Curriculum officials have discussed these matters with colleagues in Legal Services. The Education and Welsh Language legal team have provided legal advice on the subject-matter of this MA.

What are the financial implications of Ministers agreeing to this advice and which budget will this be paid through?

- 4.1 Any associated administration costs can be met from within the EPS Delegated Running Costs budget. Legal Services will work with policy officials in reviewing Circular 10/94. We will seek advice at a later date for any additional costs to be met from the Curriculum and Assessment BEL - 5162 for work to be undertaken in 2018-19.
- 4.2 The EPS Operations Team is content this MA complies with Interim Finance Notice 01/2015 (EPS/KW/24/18).