



## REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

23 NOVEMBER 2022

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**Report by:** Arwyn Thomas, GwE Managing Director

**Subject:** Letter to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language

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### **1.0 Purpose of the Report**

- 1.1. To provide the Joint Committee with a formal record, following discussions and a decision made at the previous meeting on 05/10/22, in relation to the letter sent to the Minister for Education and Welsh language on 11/10/22.

### **2.0 Background**

- 2.1. The letter (Appendix 1) on behalf of GwE's Joint Committee, sent to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language, expressed concern regarding the increasing pressures on the leaders and staff of our schools, and especially so as Estyn resumes its inspection cycle.

### **3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1. The letter very much welcomed what is highlighted in the new School Improvement Guidance, especially the tone of the document. It also welcomed greatly the direction His Majesty's Chief Inspector is setting for the regulatory body.
- 3.2. The thrust of the correspondence was to draw attention to the risk that the new inspection cycle presents to the implementation and realisation of many of the positive steps that the guidance requires of us.
- 3.3. The Joint Committee is fully aware that there are no easy solutions to many of the challenges listed but the region is keen to engage in a positive and productive way with the Welsh Government and Estyn to identify and define the most positive way forward.

3.4 To date, the Joint Committee has not received a response to the letter.

**4.0 Recommendations**

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to formally note the content of the letter and to consider whether any further correspondence is needed.

**5.0 Financial implications**

5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

**6.0 Equalities Impact**

6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

**7.0 Personnel Implications**

7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

**8.0 Consultation undertaken**

8.1 Consultation with GwE Management Board, the Joint Committee and Regional Headteachers.

**9.0 Appendices**

9.1 Appendix 1 - Letter to the Minister for Education and Welsh Language dated 11.10.22

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**OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS**

**Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

**Statutory Finance Officer:**

Nothing to add to the report from the perspective of financial propriety.