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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref WQ86772 (e)

Andrew R T Davies, MS
Member of the Senedd for South Wales Central
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

13 December 2022

Dear Andrew,

Thank you for your question on 28 November regarding advice to schools on lockdown drills (WQ86772) which I committed to providing a substantive response as soon as possible and that I would publish it.

As you know, all education settings in Wales have a legal duty to ensure that learners have access to a safe learning environment. All schools will therefore have emergency procedures for dealing with rare incidents such as fire, extreme weather conditions, intruders or terrorism. If a drill is to take place, issues should be discussed beforehand with learners sensitively and parents/carers/guardians informed so they can provide support at home if necessary. [Guidance](#) and resources have also been produced by Counter Terrorism Policing Wales.

Let me assure you that safeguarding learners is of paramount importance and our statutory guidance [Keeping Learners Safe](#) sets out actions and expectations placed on schools to ensure their safety and well-being.

Furthermore, on 29 November we published new [Emergency Resilience Guidance for Education, Childcare and Children's Settings](#). This provides information to help all education and childcare settings respond to a wide range of emergencies. My expectation is that all schools and childcare settings should be proactively planning for future disruptions, irrespective of the cause, and ensuring that the learning and well-being of all learners is prioritised. It is the first iteration, co-produced with our key partners, and we will continue to work closely with them to refine and expand the advice and best practice links.

Yours sincerely,

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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.