

Q5 OAQ 37683 (SUPPLEMENTARY)
22 SEPTEMBER 2004

Idwina Hart AM MBE
Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration

DP 622/03 - 07

Our ref: MB/EH/0450/04



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Dear Rhodri

5 October 2004

During Questions on 22 September, you asked me a question about the placement of looked after English children into Wales. I undertook to provide you with a written reply.

It is the responsibility of the 'placing' English authority to ensure that such a placement meets the needs of the child, taking into account their social, health, education and cultural needs. The placing authority is also under an obligation to inform the 'receiving' local authority social services department, the Local Education Authority and the Local Health Board that a child has been placed in their area. Any services that need to be provided by the receiving authorities should be agreed before the placement is started.

As placing any child a long way from home takes the child away from their communities and family networks, any such placement needs careful consideration. The movement of children across borders is a concern for both the Assembly Government and Department for Education and Skills officials and discussions have been held about the issues. The Departments for Education and Skills is intending from next April to monitor the number of English children placed more than 20 miles from home.

All children's homes and foster care agencies in Wales are subject to regulations and National Minimum Standards and are inspected by the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales. The quality of care provided to children placed in Wales (regardless of where they are originally from) is therefore maintained through regulation and inspection processes.



BUDDSODDWR MEWN POBL
INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

7.10.0

In addition to this, as part of the Assembly Government's work to improve placements for looked after children, research has been commissioned into foster care, residential care and specialist placements. The key messages from this research (including the need for robust planning of placements) have been disseminated across Welsh local authorities. Work, part funded by the Assembly Government, has also been started to develop collaborative commissioning of placements by local authorities across Wales

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. I. Jones', written in a cursive style.