



Our ref AB/PO/92/2026

30 July 2026

Dear Mike,

I'm writing in response to a question you asked during the Counsel General's Oral Questions on 30 June about a legislative proposal to establish a negotiating body for school support staff in Wales. This matter falls within my portfolio as the Cabinet Minister for Education and Welsh Language.

I recognise the significant contribution that school support staff make to the education system in Wales. Their work is, without doubt, integral to supporting learners, teachers and the effective operation of schools.

As I explained during the debate on this matter on 10 June, the pay and conditions of school support staff is currently the responsibility of local authorities. However, I remain committed to working with employers, trade unions and the wider education workforce to ensure school staff are supported and valued in their roles. I am open to considering all options as part of the next phase of work. I can see the merits in a statutory body, which would provide our support staff with similar arrangements to those being established in England. But this would take time to set up. I am, therefore, interested in exploring what we could do without legislation to make a difference more quickly.

My officials are now working with our social partners to scope the options in order to determine the best way forward.

Yours sincerely,

Anna Brychan AS/MS
Gweinidog Cabinet dros Addysg a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Minister for Education and the Welsh Language

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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.