

Attempt to engage with Lynne Neagle June 2025 re CME database clarification

Dear Ms Neagle,

Regarding the measures to construct “Children Missing Education” or “CME” databases based on extracting data from Local Health Boards, would you kindly clarify how children and families who are identified using these measures will initially be treated by local authority staff?

It would seem likely that most, if not all children who are identified using these measures would be home educated children who are in receipt of a suitable education but just not previously known to the education department of the council, having previously exercised their lawful right to not inform council staff of their choice of educational provision.

Therefore, would you confirm that the correct process would be for council staff to then make the same kinds of informal enquiries regarding educational provision as they may make at present rather than immediately demand the levels of detail of information that may be requested for such databases, as listed in the consultation documents, such as contact details of anyone who has care or educational input at any time.

We are sure you appreciate it is vital to have this clarified, for reassurance of concerned home educators and also to avoid inappropriate conduct by council staff, especially given accounts from home educators of how council staff can at present overstep their lawful remits and/or provide misleading information regarding their duties, and also in light of the absence of any independent complaints process for how these measures are enacted. It would be extremely helpful to confirm that any approach to home educating families that were not previously known to be home education must be sensitive and respectful.

It would be most helpful if you could make available the information and/or training content provided to council staff on how to operate this pilot, including how to approach home educating families that were not previously known to that department as being home educators. Thank you.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Home Ed Cymru.