

**Jane Hutt**  
Aelod Cynulliad dros  
Fro Morgannwg  
Assembly Member for  
Vale of Glamorgan



1/10/18

Cynulliad National  
Cenedlaethol Assembly for  
Cymru Wales

Cllr Lis Burnett  
Chair, Scrutiny Committee  
Learning and Culture

Our Ref: JH/CW/LIS

21<sup>st</sup> September 2018

Dear Lis

**Re: Llancarfan School**

I have been contacted by the Save Llancarfan School Committee who have raised concerns that the date of the Scrutiny Committee has been brought forward by two weeks. I understand that there are concerns that this decision has been taken in order that Cabinet can discuss the proposal to close the school on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, ahead of the implementation of the School Organisation changes on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. I understand that originally the discussion was due to take place on the 5<sup>th</sup> December.

I understand that there is also concern that in bringing the meeting forward the time the action group has to collate their information and submit it to be considered. They told me that the Action Committee are working in partnership with Llancarfan Community Council to collate a document highlighting the failures of the consultation report and compile key correspondence and information which has not been included in the report.

I would be grateful for clarification regarding the decision to bring the meeting forward and for any other information regarding the situation.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes  
Yours sincerely



**Jane Hutt AM**  
Vale of Glamorgan



## Willmott, Michael

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**From:** Burnett, Lis (Cllr)  
**Sent:** 28 September 2018 5:13 PM  
**To:** Hutt, Jane (Assembly Member) ([Jane.Hutt@assembly.wales](mailto:Jane.Hutt@assembly.wales)) <[Jane.Hutt@assembly.wales](mailto:Jane.Hutt@assembly.wales)>  
**Subject:** RE: Llancarfan School

Dear Jane,

Thank you for your letter. There appears to be some confusion over the selection of the date for the Learning and Culture Scrutiny committee to discuss the Cabinet reference in relation to Llancarfan School.

The reference from Cabinet on 17<sup>th</sup> September would have been considered for inclusion on the committee agenda of the 16<sup>th</sup> October. However, mindful of the level of interest in the proposals I took the decision to hold a special scrutiny meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> October in which the report would be the sole agenda item. This would allow more time for discussion and also a degree of flexibility to increase opportunities for input from members of the public. I was also aware of earlier comments in relation to the length of time the process is taking and so sought to avoid any unnecessary delay.

I informed the committee at our meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> September of my intention to hold the meeting during w/c 1<sup>st</sup> October and alerted the Save Llancarfan School group later that same evening.

I look forward to a full and in depth discussion of the report at the meeting on Monday

Kind Regards

Lis

Lis Burnett  
Chair, Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Councillor for Stanwell Ward  
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Andrew RT Davies AM/AC



Assembly Member for South Wales Central

National Assembly for Wales  
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru

Cllr Lis Burnett  
Chair, Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Vale of Glamorgan Council  
Civic Offices  
Barry  
CF63 4RU

Our ref: ARTD/JM

19<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Cllr Burnett

**Re: Proposed changes to Llancarfan Primary School**

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, following the decision to refer the above plans to your committee for consideration.

As you will be aware, the case for the proposed closure of the school has centred around funding under the Welsh Government's Twenty First Century Schools Programme, on the basis that it will allow for a new school to be built on a site in Rhoose. In response to a question in the National Assembly for Wales, the Cabinet Secretary for Education recently confirmed that it is not necessarily a requirement for schools funded under the programme to be new builds, and indeed there are many examples of money being provided to upgrade existing schools.

The Cabinet Secretary has also confirmed that local authorities have been made aware of upcoming changes to the School Organisation Code 2013, and that they are expected to be mindful of this when taking decisions regarding affected schools. The revised Code includes a presumption against the closure of rural schools, and Llancarfan has been classified as such.

For your convenience, I have enclosed a copy of the transcript of the relevant sections of the Assembly's record of proceedings. I hope that this is helpful, and if I can be of further assistance, please do let me know.

Kind regards,

**Andrew RT Davies AM**  
South Wales Central Regional AM

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**DRAFT RECORD – NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FOR WALES**

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**Andrew RT Davies AM**

13:38:11

Thank you, Cabinet Secretary, for that answer. Just before the summer recess, you issued new guidance in relation to rural schools—something that was welcomed. Obviously, that guidance will come into effect later on in the year. I'd be grateful to understand what weight local authorities should place on that specific guidance that you've put out there, at the moment. As I understand, it hasn't been incorporated into the code, but many authorities—and I can think of one in the Vale of Glamorgan—are deciding on school closures, as we speak. And it is important that there isn't a rush to shut many vulnerable schools before this new guidance comes into the code. So, could you indicate what weight you, as the Cabinet Secretary, place on the note that you put out just before the summer recess, please?

**Kirsty Williams AM**

13:39:32

Well, Andrew, as you've recognised, we are revising the code. The draft code that has been revised to reflect the consultation responses—the consultation that took place last year—was laid before the Assembly on Monday of this week. As is required by the 2013 Act, the code has to be laid for 40 days for all of which it may come into force unless the Assembly resolves not to approve it. Therefore, I would expect the new code to come into force on 1 November. 1 November, colleagues around this Chamber willing. We have been very clear to local authorities about the direction of policy travel in this area and I would expect them to be cognisant of that when they're making any decisions about the future of a rural school that would be listed under the new code.

**David Melding AM**

13:40:21

Cabinet Secretary, I've heard, in relation to the proposed transfer/closure of Llancarfan Primary School, which my colleague has just referred to, that the issue of access to the school building programme requires schools, often, to be built on new sites and schools to be consolidated or expanded. This is a real problem for schools in rural communities, where there may be a constrained site, no alternative available and where money is not available for adaptation—you've just got to go with your comprehensive new build, and this restricts the choices that local authorities have, especially when they want to increase the viability of our smaller, rural schools. Will you look at the building programme?

**Kirsty Williams AM**

13:41:08

First of all, can I say that it is not a requirement of the twenty-first century schools programme to access that money to have a completely new build? In fact, I have been to refurbishment projects the length and breadth of this country, where twenty-first century schools programme money has been used to refurbish part of a school—in fact, in the new Conservative leader's constituency not so long ago. So, this idea that you could only access that money if you build a brand new school from scratch is a fallacy—that is not correct.<sup>19</sup>

Each case that is put forward by our partners in local government is judged on its merits. What I do understand, with regards to the issue that I know was exercising both Andrew and yourself and the Assembly Member for the Vale of Glamorgan, is the case of Llancarfan. The decision that was taken at a meeting, I believe, on Monday of this week, is that the consultation that the Vale has gone out to is now to be referred to their scrutiny committee, and they are to allow the members of that scrutiny committee to look at the proposals that the Vale of Glamorgan Council has come forward with—which I welcome—and that will ultimately be a matter for those who run the Vale of Glamorgan Council to make a decision on the future of that school.





## Willmott, Michael

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**From:** Burnett, Lis (Cllr)

**Sent:** 28 September 2018 5:29 PM

**To:** 'AndrewRT.Davies@assembly.wales' <[AndrewRT.Davies@assembly.wales](mailto:AndrewRT.Davies@assembly.wales)>

**Subject:** Re: Proposed changes to Llancafán Primary School

Your Ref: ARTD/JM

Dear Mr Davies,

Thank you for your letter of the 19<sup>th</sup> September, received by me on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

I have asked for a copy of your letter and attached transcript to be forwarded to the Scrutiny Committee for information. We look forward to a full and in-depth discussion of the Cabinet report before making our recommendations.

I should perhaps clarify that under the Council's constitution the Scrutiny Committee does not have executive power and any decision in relation to this proposal is for the Cabinet alone. It might therefore be of benefit to forward a copy of your letter to them

Kind Regards

Councillor Lis Burnett  
Chair, Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee  
Labour Councillor for Stanwell Ward  
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