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## Ymateb i Ymgynghoriad / Consultation Response

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<b>Dyddiad / Date:</b>	25 November 2019
<b>Pwnc / Subject:</b>	Education (Amendments Relating to the Intervals for Inspection of Education and Training) (Wales) Regulations 2020

### Background information about Estyn

Estyn is the Office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. As a Crown body, Estyn is independent of the Welsh Government.

Estyn's principal aim is to raise the standards and quality education and training in Wales. This is primarily set out in the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and the Education Act 2005. In exercising its functions, Estyn must give regard to the:

- Quality of education and training in Wales;
- Extent to which education and training meets the needs of learners;
- Educational standards achieved by education and training providers in Wales;
- Quality of leadership and management of those education and training providers;
- Spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of learners; and,
- Contribution made to the well-being of learners.

Estyn's remit includes (but is not exclusive to) nurseries and non-maintained settings, primary schools, secondary schools, independent schools, pupil referrals units, further education, adult community learning, local government education services, work-based learning, and teacher education and training.

Estyn may give advice to the Assembly on any matter connected to education and training in Wales. To achieve excellence for learners, Estyn has set three strategic objectives:

- Provide accountability to service users on the quality and standards of education and training in Wales;
- Inform the development of national policy by the Welsh Government;
- Build capacity for improvement of the education and training system in Wales.

This response is not confidential.

## Introduction

Estyn fully supports the proposal to extend the current seven year inspection cycle (2016-23) to an eight year cycle (2016-24) in order to allow a partial suspension of inspection for maintained nursery schools, maintained schools and PRUs during 2020-21.

**Question 1** – Do you agree to the making of The Education (Amendments Relating to the Intervals for Inspection of Education and Training) (Wales) Regulations 2020 which will come into force on 1 September 2020 to allow the partial suspension of school inspections to take place in 2020–2021?

<b>Agree</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Neither agree nor disagree</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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## Supporting comments

Estyn supports the proposal to extend the current seven year inspection cycle (2016-23) to an eight year cycle (2016-24) in order to allow a partial suspension of maintained nursery schools, maintained schools and PRUs during 2020-21. This action was a key recommendation in Professor Graham Donaldson's report, *A Learning Inspectorate*, the recommendations of which we accepted fully.

One of the aims of the new curriculum for Wales is to enable schools to broaden learning through innovative and creative approaches. Its introduction poses considerable challenges to schools in terms of preparation time, production of resources and professional learning. In order to implement the new curriculum successfully, school leaders and practitioners need to build on their confidence to be flexible and innovative.

We believe that partially suspending inspection activity during 2020-21 has the potential to have a positive impact on the introduction of the new curriculum. Schools will be able to focus fully on the task of preparing for and developing their curriculum and the suspension period would give Estyn the time and opportunity to support schools' development of their new curriculum, for example through engagement visits, as part of a broad national strategy of collaboration and professional learning.

Estyn's own public consultation<sup>1</sup> indicated strong support for these proposals, with 93% agreeing that inspections for schools and PRUs should be suspended during 2020-21.

During the proposed partial suspension of inspection, Estyn will continue to monitor any schools causing concern, in particular those in a statutory category.

**Question 2** – We would like to know your views on the effects that the making of The Education (Amendments Relating to the Intervals for Inspection of Education and Training) (Wales) Regulations 2020 would have on the Welsh language, specifically on:

- i) opportunities for people to use Welsh

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/document/responses-consultation-estyn%E2%80%99s-proposed-transition-year-2020%E2%80%932021-academic-year>

- ii) treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated?

**Supporting comments**

Estyn believes that the implementation of the new curriculum will enable schools to strengthen the development of pupils' Welsh language skills through the delivery of the Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience.

During the partial suspension of inspection, Estyn will continue to follow the approach outlined in our Welsh Language Policy<sup>2</sup> throughout all our work.

**Question 3** – Please also explain how you believe the proposed policy to make The Education (Amendments Relating to the Intervals for Inspection of Education and Training) (Wales) Regulations 2020 could be formulated or changed so as to have:

- i) positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language
- ii) no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favourably than the English language.

**Supporting comments**

Estyn does not believe that the proposal requires any amendment to increase its potential positive effect on the use of the Welsh language. We do not believe that the proposal will have any adverse impact on the use of the Welsh language.

**Question 4** – We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them.

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please tick here:

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.estyn.gov.wales/document/welsh-language-policy>