Bwletin Addysg

Bwletin Addysg 22/10/14

Cwestiynau Addysg

Rwyf wedi herio'r Gweinidog Addysg ynghylch sut mae'n bwriadu cael sicrwydd ansawdd mewn Addysg Uwch os dilëir corff yr Asiantaeth Sicrhau Ansawdd.

Mae'n amlwg fod y Gweinidog wedi methu â gweithredu i amddiffyn ansawdd darpariaeth prifysgolion Cymru.

Mae'r Bil Addysg Uwch yn gwneud peth darpariaeth i gynnal ansawdd dysgu yn ein prifysgolion, ond nid yw'n ddigon.

Ymddengys bod y Gweinidog wedi ei ddal yn ddiarwybod gan benderfyniad y corff cyllido addysg Seisnig i roi masnachfraint yr Asiantaeth Sicrhau Ansawdd allan, ac o ganlyniad, nid yw wedi gwneud unrhyw ddarpariaeth am effaith hyn ar Gymru.

Yng Nghymru, gallai'r penderfyniad hwn arwain at breifateiddio'r corff Sicrhau Ansawdd, gan agor ein systemau addysg i fwy o farchnadeiddio a pheryglu safonau.

Mae'n rhyfeddol nad yw'n ymddangos bod gan y Gweinidog na Llywodraeth Cymru farn am y bygythiad hwn i safonau ein prifysgolion a'n henw da yn rhyngwladol.

Dyna pam y dylai Llywodraeth Cymru weithredu nawr i adolygu

gweithdrefnau sicrhau ansawdd a sicrhau fod prifysgolion yn cynnal eu henw da.

Adroddiad Comisiwn tlodi plant a symudoledd cymdeithasol

Dywedodd y comisiwn: "We are especially concerned that poor pupils in Wales lag behind those elsewhere in the UK with only 26 per cent of Welsh children who are eligible for free school meals achieving five good GCSEs (including English and Maths) compared with 38 per cent of children eligible for free school meals in England. Across Britain as a whole, at the current rate of progress, it will be decades before the attainment gap between the poorest pupils and their peers will be closed."

Bil Addysg Uwch (Cymru)

Bu dadl ar Egwyddorion Cyffredinol y Bil Addysg Uwch (Cymru).

Rhaid i'r Bil hwn ddatgan ymreolaeth prifysgolion.

Mae'r ail ran o'r Bil yn dal i beri rhywfaint o ddryswch ynglŷn â sut bydd y Bil yn gwella neu o leiaf yn cynnal a sicrhau ansawdd y tu mewn i'r sector.

Y peth olaf sydd eisiau ei wneud, yw dilyn argymhellion y pwyllgorau bod angen i'r Cynulliad gael gweld y rheoliadau drafft ar gyfer y cynllun ffioedd a mynediad. Yn bersonol, byddwn yn leicio gweld y cod ariannol ar ffurf ddrafft hefyd er mwyn sicrhau ein bod yn gallu cydweithio â'r sector i wneud yn siŵr bod pob dim yn ei le.

Hoffwn glywed gennych os oes gennych unrhyw bryderon. Bydd y Blaid yn gosod gwelliannu yn y dyddiau nesa.

Cyllideb

Rydw i wedi holi'r Gweinidog Addysg Cymruyn Siambr y Senedd ynglŷn â'i fethiant i ddiogelu cyllidebau addysg a sgiliau o doriadau yn y flwyddyn ariannol bresennol.

Nid yw'r Gweinidog wedi amddiffyn y gyllideb addysg o'r toriadau a gyhoeddwyd yn ystod toriad yr haf.

Mae plant yn ysgolion Cymru yn talu'r pris o fethiant byrddau iechyd lleol i reoli eu cyllidebau. Mae arian wedi ei gymryd eleni o ysgolion a phrentisiaethau er mwyn llenwi'r bwlch yng ngwariant iechyd.

Rydym yn bwrw ati i graffu ar y gyllideb yn y Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg fore Dydd Iau.

Edrych ymlaen

Yng nghynhadledd y Blaid dros y penwythnos byddem yn trafod sawl cynnig ar addysg. Rwyf yn falch o fod yn rhan o banel i drafod materion yn ymwneud â datganoli cyflog ac amodau athrawon Cymru mewn sesiwn holi ac ateb. Trefnir y cyfarfod ymylol gan undeb athrawon UCAC.

Yn y Senedd wythnos ar ôl nesaf mae datganiad gan y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau: Diwygio Cymwysterau.

English

Education Bulletin

Education Bulletin 22/10/14

Education Questions

I challenged the Education Minister over how he intends to deliver quality assurance in the Higher Education sector if the Quality Assurance Agency body is scrapped.

It's clear that the Minister has failed to take action to protect quality of provision in Welsh universities.

The Higher Education Bill does make some provisions to maintain the quality of teaching in our universities, but it is not enough.

It seems that the Minister has been caught off guard by the decision of the English education funding body to franchise the Quality Assurance Agency, and as a result he has made no provision for the impact of this on Wales.

In Wales, this decision could mean that the Quality Assurance body could become privatised, opening up our education systems to further marketisation and could jeopardise standards.

It is astonishing that the Minister and Welsh Government do not seem to have a view on this threat to our university standards and our international reputation.

The Welsh Government should take action now to review quality assurance

procedures and ensure that Welsh universities live up to their excellent reputations.

Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission Report

The report states: "We are especially concerned that poor pupils in Wales lag behind those elsewhere in the UK with only 26 per cent of Welsh children who are eligible for free school meals achieving five good GCSEs (including English and Maths) compared with 38 per cent of children eligible for free school meals in England. Across Britain as a whole, at the current rate of progress, it will be decades before the attainment gap between the poorest pupils and their peers will be closed."

Higher Education (Wales) Bill

We have had a debate on the General Principles of the Higher Education (Wales) Bill.

The Bill must state the autonomy of universities.

The second part of the Bill that still causes me some confusion is how the Bill will improve or at least maintain the quality assurance within the sector.

The final thing that is needed, as has already been recommended by the committee, is that we see the draft regulations for the fee and access plans. Personally, I would like to see the financial code also in draft form so that we can work with the sector to make sure that everything is properly in place.

Budget

I have pressed the Welsh Education Minister in the Senedd chamber over his failure to protect the education and skills budget from in-year cuts.

The Education Minister has not defended the education budget from in-year cuts announced over the summer recess.

Children in Welsh schools are paying the price for the failures of the local health boards to manage their budgets as money is being taken this year from schools and apprenticeships to fill a black hole in health spending.

Forward Look

During the party's annual conference we will be debating various policy motions on education. I'm pleased to be taking part in a panel discussing the devolution of pay and conditions of school teachers in Wales. The fringe meeting has been organised by teachers' trade union UCAC.

In the Senedd the week after next there is a statement by the Minister for Education and Skills on Qualifications Reform.