

# Cyngor Bwrdeistref Sirol Pen-y-bont ar Ogwr Bridgend County Borough Council



Swyddfeydd Dinesig, Stryd yr Angel, Pen-y-bont, CF31 4WB / Civic Offices, Angel Street, Bridgend, CF31 4WB

GYFRINACHOL – I'W HAGOR GAN  
CYREIRIWDYD ATO UN UNIG / CONFIDENTIAL  
TO BE OPENED BY ADDRESSEE ONLY

Jeremy Miles MS  
Minister for Education and Welsh  
Language  
Welsh Government

[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@  
gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales)

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Pwnc 1  
(Addysg) / Chair of Subject Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee 1 (Education)

Deialu uniongyrchol / Direct line: (01656) 643515  
Gofynnwch am / Ask for: Scrutiny

Ein cyf / Our ref: AW / Scrutiny  
Eich cyf / Your ref:

**Dyddiad / Date: 11 March 2024**

Dear Minister

I am writing to formally put on record the concerns of our Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 which met on 4 December 2023 to consider Universal Primary Free School Meals and Catering Services.

During discussions, the Committee expressed strong concerns around the financial situation for Universal Free School Meal Provision (UPFSM) given the fact that whilst Welsh Government has provided Capital investment for new kitchen equipment, facilities and upgrades, there are the ongoing Revenue cost implications that the Local Authority and Schools will struggle to meet.

These include the cost of subsidising school meals, food inflation rates, costs to meet new requirements for food waste as well as significant costs required for additional staff to deliver UPFSM, both in schools and in the Catering Service.

I have been asked as Chair of the Subject Overview and Scrutiny Committee 1 to express these concerns and highlight the continuing struggles of Local Authorities and Schools to respond to new legislation and requirements without suitable funding being provided to support it; and to call on Welsh Government to commit to fully funding the revenue and capital costs of implementing this national policy commitment.

The Committee requests that due consideration be given to the above and look forward to your response.

Ffôn/Tel: 01656 643643

Facs/Fax: 01656 668126

Ebost/Email: [talktous@bridgend.gov.uk](mailto:talktous@bridgend.gov.uk)

Negeseuon SMS/ SMS Messaging: 07581 157014

[Twitter@bridgendCBC](https://twitter.com/bridgendCBC)

Gwefan/Website: [www.bridgend.gov.uk](http://www.bridgend.gov.uk)

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Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg. Rhowch wybod i ni os yw eich dewis iaith yw'r Gymraeg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh. Please let us know if your language choice is Welsh

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alexander Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline.

Y Cyng / Councillor Alex Williams

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Trosolwg a Chraffu Pwnc 1 (Addysg) / Chair of Subject Overview and  
Scrutiny Committee 1 (Education)