



Arolygiaeth Ei Mawrhydi dros Addysg a Hyfforddiant yng Nghymru
Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales

25 June 2019

Dear

Thank you for your email dated 7 June 2019, in which you request the reasons why Estyn has a safeguarding team.

When dealing with requests for information made under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (the 'Act'), Estyn's obligations include:-

1. Confirming or denying whether it holds information of the description specified in the request; and
2. Communicating the information requested to the applicant.

In response to your request, I can confirm that all staff have a duty to report any disclosures or concerns they may have about the safety and welfare of children and vulnerable adults. In order to manage this responsibility, Estyn has a designated Lead Officer with responsibility for safeguarding, as well as a team of safeguarding case officers with knowledge of specific education sectors and/or relevant issues that generate concern, and allocated clerical and administrative support. Estyn has no powers to intervene directly in safeguarding cases alerted to us through disclosures. Estyn does not have the powers to investigate complaints by parents or learners about schools, or to investigate safeguarding matters. It is the role of the Lead Officer and safeguarding case officers to provide advice as to where concerns can be taken in order that they can be fully addressed, and to report any immediate concerns when a child is at serious risk of harm to the relevant local authority.

More detail about Estyn's safeguarding role can be found in our policy, which is located at the following address:

<https://www.estyn.gov.wales/sites/www.estyn.gov.wales/files/documents/Estyn%20Safeguarding%20Policy%202016%20En.pdf>

This policy is currently being updated, and the new version will be on Estyn's website from September 2019.

If you are not satisfied with the decision Estyn has taken regarding your request for information, you are entitled to request that we review the matter. Your request for a

review should be addressed to the Feedback and Complaints Manager, and received no later than 20 working days after the date of this communication.

If you are still not satisfied, you also have a right to complain to the Information Commissioner at:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113
Email: enquiries@ico.gsi.gov.uk

Yours sincerely