

REQUEST	14159 - My Life Learning	RESPONSE
	<p>I require the following information:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who at Wigan Council made the decision to withdraw the contract from My Life Learning? 2. When was this decision made? Please provide dates and times of meetings which took place within the Council. 3. What were the reasons for this decision? Please provide detailed evidence to support the reasons. If no detailed evidence is available, then please state that no detailed evidence is available. 4. If a safeguarding issue or issues were one of the reasons, please state this and provide detailed evidence of the severity of the issue or issues to support this claim, include dates these issues became known to the Council (excluding any personal information). If no evidence is available, then please state this. 5. Cath Peeling Assistant Director of Education at Wigan stated in a public article, that the students were not making educational progress at My Life Learning, and this was one of the reasons for Wigan withdrawing its contract with My Life Learning. Please provide detailed evidence that Cath Peeling must have to support this claim. If no evidence is available, then please state this. 6. Prior to the withdrawal of the contract between Wigan Council and My Life Learning, Wigan Council agreed to fund all the students (affected by this decision) in the February/March 2022 annual reviews. Please provide the dates that Wigan Council made the decisions to continuing funding each student for a further 12 months, omitting any personal information. 7. Prior to the withdrawal of the contract between Wigan Council and My Life Learning provide the dates that My Life Learning were informed by the council of the decision that funding would continue for the students (affected by the decision to withdraw the contract) for a further 12 months. 8. The contract with the ESFA to fund the students at My Life Learning was signed by both parties and complete by the 14th of July. Therefore, please provide the date the Council informed the ESFA that they were withdrawing their contract with My Life Learning? 9. Provide the detailed reasons (with evidence) Wigan Council presented to the ESFA to support Wigans decision to withdraw their contract with My Life Learning. 10. My Life's other Services are now under review. Please provide details of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Who commissioned the review b. The reasons for the review of the other services with detailed evidence c. The scope of the review d. The Structure of the review e. Who will be performing the review f. When the review is to be completed g. When will the results will be provided to My Life and the users of the other services at My Life. 	<p>Please see attached sheet for full responses</p>

Our reference: WigSEND/My Life
Your reference: WigSEND/My Life
Please ask for: 'redacted'
Direct line: 'redacted'
Date: Friday 22nd July 2022

Dear 'redacted'

I am writing this letter on behalf of Wigan Council to formally notify you of our decision to withdraw all of our existing learners at My Life Learning following consideration of all of the available options as a result of their recent OFSTED inspection where they achieved an overall grading of inadequate.

This is not a decision that Wigan Council have made lightly, and have done so taking a number of factors and risks into consideration, but ultimately we perceive it to be in the best interests of our young people to source alternative placements with other commissioned providers, who we are confident can provide access to a safe and quality education.

The significant concerns raised by OFSTED and the lack of pace in which My Life have been able to make necessary improvements (as identified through previous monitoring visits) ultimately mean that the LA have little assurance that the above can be provided at My Life Learning.

Please find below a copy of the letter which has been sent to My Life Learning outlining the LA's decision to withdraw learners, further information relating to the reasons for this and the plans we have in place to support appropriate next steps.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support, advice and guidance which has been extended to Wigan Council by the ESFA during this time.

Yours sincerely

'redacted'
SEND Service Lead

For Colette Dutton
Director of Children's Services

I require the following information:

1. Who at Wigan Council made the decision to withdraw the contract from My Life Learning?

Following the Ofsted report and concerns raised that the ESFA may no longer fund the placement Assistant Director for Education Cath Pealing made the final recommendation.

2. When was this decision made? Please provide dates and times of meetings which took place within the Council.

A series of informal internal meetings and phone calls were held between appropriate officers in the SEND team, senior managers in that team and the Assistant Director for Education from when the report was published on 1.7.22 with a final decision being reached on 20.7.22.

**3. What were the reasons for this decision? Please provide detailed evidence to support the reasons.
If no detailed evidence is available, then please state that no detailed evidence is available.**

The provision was inspected by Ofsted in May 2022 the outcome of which was confidentially made known to us on 16th May 2022 by My Life Learning. Wigan LA first had sight of the full inspection report when it was published on 1st July 2022, the report highlights that the provision is inadequate in all four areas with an overall judgement of inadequate. Significant concerns were raised in every area of judgement. Whilst this is the first full inspection the previous inspection in July 2021 highlighted insufficient areas of progress across all areas. We would have expected to have seen some progress across these areas in that time. We do not believe that the provision has the capacity to make the changes necessary at this time to enable learners to continue.

The evidence is the full Ofsted report which is available: [Ofsted | My Life Learning](#)

**4. If a safeguarding issue or issues were one of the reasons, please state this and provide detailed evidence of the severity of the issue or issues to support this claim, include dates these issues became known to the Council (excluding any personal information).
If no evidence is available, then please state this.**

The decision was made based on the information provided within the Ofsted report published on 1st July 2022.

Detail related to safeguarding in the inspection report include:

'Leaders and managers do not provide training for staff or learners about local safeguarding issues, such as the exploitation of young people. They are unclear about the local issues relating to radicalisation and extremism.'

'The arrangements for safeguarding are not effective. Leaders do not ensure that all safeguarding concerns that staff report are followed up appropriately. The safeguarding team failed to identify potential issues such as neglect or to refer concerns to external agencies. The two recently appointed designated safeguarding leads (DSLs) are inexperienced in this role. Current and previous DSLs have not met regularly or formally with learners identified as a cause for concern to ensure that these learners are staying safe. Leaders have failed to put in place robust risk assessments for work placements. They do not assess properly the activities that learners undertake, the environments in which they learn or the people that they will meet, or the transport in which they travel to their placement'

'As a matter of urgency, put in place effective safeguarding arrangements, including prompt identification, referral and monitoring of safeguarding concerns, and the implementation of robust risk assessments. Leaders and managers must ensure that correct food hygiene standards are followed, that staff model appropriate behaviours, and that training is provided for staff and learners about local safeguarding issues, including radicalisation and extremism.'

5. Cath Peeling Assistant Director of Education at Wigan stated in a public article, that the students were not making educational progress at My Life Learning, and this was one of the reasons for Wigan withdrawing its contract with My Life Learning.

Please provide detailed evidence that Cath Peeling must have to support this claim. If no evidence is available, then please state this.

The statement was made based on the information provided within the Ofsted report published on 1st July 2022.

Information recorded within the report related to educational progress includes:

'Learners do not develop the substantial new knowledge, skills and behaviours of which they are capable. Tutors do not plan the curriculum to help learners know more and remember more over time. Learners cannot recall their previous learning and activities easily or without significant prompts. Learners do not benefit from a curriculum that prepares them for their next steps.[...] They do not routinely develop their confidence and independence skills.'

'Leaders, managers and governors do not have high enough expectations of staff and learners at the college. The curriculum is not aspirational or challenging. Learners follow a similar curriculum content regardless of their level and ability. Leaders' and managers' curriculum rationale is not clear or understood by staff. [...] The curriculum is unambitious, and the quality of education is uninspiring. [...]Learners do not routinely receive the support that they need to be successful in

their learning. Leaders, managers and tutors do not identify, or embed into the curriculum, the support for which learners are funded.'

'Leaders provide specialist support training for staff, such as sighted guide training. However, leaders do not have robust plans in place to develop tutors' teaching skills to improve learners' educational experiences. Leaders, managers and tutors do not plan or sequence the curriculum logically. Tutors fail to consolidate and broaden learners' knowledge and understanding. When learning about voting as part of the personal development curriculum, learners do not revisit the topic regularly or in different contexts. [...]However, in lessons, tutors and LSAs do not plan activities to help learners improve specific behaviours, such as building confidence. Learners do not develop the behaviours they need to prepare them for work or life in the community.'

6. Prior to the withdrawal of the contract between Wigan Council and My Life Learning, Wigan Council agreed to fund all the students (affected by this decision) in the February/March 2022 annual reviews.

Please provide the dates that Wigan Council made the decisions to continuing funding each student for a further 12 months, omitting any personal information.

Annual Reviews were formally responded to on the dates below (Please note that letters did not specifically state funding would continue but did state whether the EHCP would continue or be amended):

21.04.22
4.05.22
29.03.22
09.05.22
09.05.22
26.04.22
13.09.22
07.04.22
06.04.22
06.04.22
29.03.22

7. Prior to the withdrawal of the contract between Wigan Council and My Life Learning provide the dates that My Life Learning were informed by the council of the decision that funding would continue for the students (affected by the decision to withdraw the contract) for a further 12 months.

Funding was not agreed for the continuing learner cohort as funding submissions were not submitted by MyLife Learning for the academic year 2022/23.

8. The contract with the ESFA to fund the students at My Life Learning was signed by both parties and complete by the 14th of July.

Therefore, please provide the date the Council informed the ESFA that they were withdrawing their contract with My Life Learning?

22.6.22

9. Provide the detailed reasons (with evidence) Wigan Council presented to the ESFA to support Wigans decision to withdraw their contract with My Life Learning.

Please see letter to ESFA

10. My Life's other Services are now under review.

Please provide details of:

a. Who commissioned the review

Adult Social Care

b. The reasons for the review of the other services with detailed evidence

The findings of the Ofsted report of My Life Learns triggered the Adult Social Care review

b. The scope of the review

In scope of the review is My Life Opportunities and My Life Works

c. The Structure of the review

The review will consider support models, policy, procedure and supporting paperwork. The review will also engage with individuals, families and people who work in the service

e. Who will be performing the review

A review team of Adult Social Care Officers are undertaking the review

f. When the review is to be completed

It is anticipated that the review will be completed in October

g. When will the results will be provided to My Life and the users of the other services at My Life.

It is anticipated that the review will complete in October, at this point findings will be shared with My Life, people who use services and their families.