



Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sports, and International Relations Committee

05 March 2024

Dear Delyth

Thank you for your letter, dated 16 January, seeking further information following my draft budget scrutiny session with the Committee on 11 January.

You have asked for information in two areas as follows:

- *impact of budget cuts in other Welsh Government departments on implementing Cymraeg 2050*
- *fuller understanding of the range of activities and expenditure across government departments that are contributing towards Cymraeg 2050 objectives*

Budgets across the Welsh Government supporting *Cymraeg 2050*

During the scrutiny session, we discussed my spending plans in relation to the Welsh language for the 2024-25 financial year. As always, I was careful to emphasise that although I'm responsible for delivering our Welsh Language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*, the aim is to mainstream *Cymraeg 2050* into all Welsh Government portfolio areas. It is therefore not possible to identify the total spending on the Welsh language within Welsh Government as it is an intrinsic part of much of what we do on a day-to-day basis. Expenditure relevant to *Cymraeg 2050* is embedded in delivery within many ministerial portfolios from the economy to health, international to housing, agriculture to the early years.

However, there are stand-alone projects within other portfolio areas that directly support the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*, and I include some examples at Annex A. I'm pleased to see that the majority of these budgets have been maintained despite the scale of cuts made across the Welsh Government in light of the extraordinarily challenging financial climate. Nevertheless, it is imperative that we continue to regularly monitor the situation. My officials will therefore stay in frequent contact with colleagues across the Welsh Government to ensure that the impact of any budgetary cuts on the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* are minimised.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

You will however be aware of the difficult budgetary decisions that my colleague, Dawn Bowden MS, Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, has had to make recently. Despite the reductions made to the budget of the culture sector, work remains underway to develop a culture strategy which will set out an ambitious and comprehensive vision for the culture sector in Wales in line with the commitment in the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru. The strategy will set the strategic direction for the sector to 2030.

The cultural arm's-length bodies, including the Arts Council of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales and the National Library of Wales, make an important contribution to the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*. We are aware of concerns relating to the budgetary reductions and potential impacts on the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*. We will maintain regular contact with the Deputy Minister to ensure that we are aware of impacts on the Welsh language in an attempt to mitigate risks as they arise.

Childcare

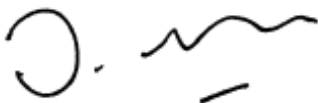
I am aware that the Deputy Minister for Social Services and Minister for Health and Social Services will soon finalise their budget allocations relating to supporting Welsh medium childcare, which includes the Cam wrth Gam programme.

Discussions with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh

For an update on this matter, please refer to the Welsh Government's response to the recommendations made by the Committee on Draft Budget 2024-25 (recommendation 4 refers) where we have agreed to provide an update to the Committee by the end of March.

I would like to assure the committee that we will continue to communicate regularly across Government and with external delivery partners to discuss the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*. We will do this to ensure that we support each other to find creative and innovative ways to make the best possible use of the budgets that are available to us in order to continue on our journey towards doubling the number of us who use Welsh daily, and to reach a million Welsh-speakers by 2050.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Annex A: Examples of projects in other government departments which directly support *Cymraeg 2050*

MEG	BEL	Activity supporting <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>	2024-25 Original Final Budget (Feb 2023) £	2024-25 Changes £	2024-25 Revised Draft Budget (Dec 2023) £	<i>Cymraeg 2050</i> activity supported through the BEL and impact of budget cuts on Welsh language policy development and interventions
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Second Homes and Affordability Dwyfor Pilot	£133,000	-	£133,000	Grant to Cyngor Gwynedd in support of Article 4 (planning direction) work. If a direction is implemented by Cyngor Gwynedd, following changes made to the planning framework (Use Class Order), this will allow the Council to manage future numbers of second homes and short-term lets.
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Second Homes and Affordability Dwyfor Pilot	£75,000	-	£75,000	Independent research and evaluation of the Pilot, including an assessment of the effectiveness of a range of measures in relation to second homes and affordability.
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Second Homes and Affordability Dwyfor Pilot	£6,000	-	£6,000	Paycheck income data to support evaluation (this will track price movement; allowing an assessment of relative affordability).
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Second Homes and Affordability Dwyfor Pilot	£322,000	-	£322,000	Pilot staff x 5 posts, working closely with the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan.
Health and Social Services	A Healthier Wales	More than just words plan 2022-27	£291,000	-	£291,000	<p>The aim of <i>More than just words</i> is to strengthen Welsh language services in health and social care leading to improved care and outcomes for Welsh speakers. In view of the numbers of staff delivering health and social services (around 200,000), there is a huge opportunity for health and social care to contribute to the targets and vision of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>. £40k of this budget is transferred internally to the <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> Division for activity linked to Leading in a Bilingual Country.</p> <p>Apart from this specific budget to fund central initiatives and projects at a national level to support <i>More than just words</i>, the NHS and local authorities also fund Welsh language services as part of their health and social care provision.</p>
Economy	Business & Regional Economic Development	ARFOR Programme - Supporting the Welsh language through economic activity	£7,000,000	-	£7,000,000	Delivery of the ARFOR 2 Programme supporting economic activities as well as benefiting the Welsh language. ARFOR is delivered within the Local Authorities of Gwynedd, Ceredigion Carmarthenshire and Ynys Môn.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

MEG	BEL	Activity supporting <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>	2024-25 Original Final Budget (Feb 2023) £	2024-25 Changes £	2024-25 Revised Draft Budget (Dec 2023) £	<i>Cymraeg 2050</i> activity supported through the BEL and impact of budget cuts on Welsh language policy development and interventions
Economy	Creative Wales (3762)	Co-operation Agreement budget for broadcasting, journalism and Welsh language content	£1,800,000 (revenue)	-	£1,800,000 (revenue)	The funding set aside to support the broadcasting and media commitments in the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru has been used to deliver projects to support an increase in Welsh language content, including the Young Content Fund, aimed at increasing the provision of bilingual content for young audiences and Sinema Cymru, a partnership with Ffilm Cymru to support the development of Welsh language film projects. This will also be the case in 2024-25 with a significant focus on ensuring sufficient Welsh language media in the delivery of the Co-operation Agreement commitments. There are no budget cuts planned for this budget heading.
Economy	Sport Wales	Grant in aid funding from Sport Wales to Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£386,715	-£13,482	£373,233	<p>Budget changes inevitably impact on the ability of Sport Wales and its partner network to deliver on the breadth of work that sport can contribute to. The sport sector is committed to an inclusive offer and this includes enabling access to sporting opportunities through the medium of Welsh, as well as developing partnerships which grow the language as a natural aspect of sport participation.</p> <p>Sport Wales directly invests in the Urdd who undertake significant work to develop sporting opportunities through the medium of Welsh. This is in addition to all the other partners Sport Wales invests in, who are also committed to providing Welsh language offers where they are able and where there is demand.</p> <p>The Urdd have run successful programmes for several years and evolving the programmes will lend itself to meeting the needs of children and young people today. Areas of focus for the coming year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school and Community Provision • Staffing, Apprenticeships and volunteers • Fully established National Urdd Sports and Apprenticeships Board • International opportunities for staff and volunteers • Data shows clearly the need to support pre-school children with physical literacy as part of their development especially in disadvantaged areas • Focus on Diverse and Disadvantaged Areas of delivery • Develop and increase our Inclusive community workforce through our volunteer and apprenticeship pathways