

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-499
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/01474/13

William Powell AM
AM for Mid & West Wales
Chair Petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 3 October regarding the petition to change the Welsh second language curriculum in English-medium secondary schools.

I am aware that the current approach to Welsh second language is unsatisfactory and does not enable pupils to use Welsh beyond the classroom, in the workplace or the community.

The document *Welsh in the National Curriculum for Wales*:

<http://wales.gov.uk/docs/dcells/publications/111025welshen.pdf> includes the current Programme of Study for Welsh second language at Key Stages 2, 3 and 4. Sufficient flexibility should exist within the curriculum to meet the needs of learners with regard to teaching and learning conversational Welsh. This document also states that learners of all abilities should have access to appropriate assessment and accreditation.

However, Estyn reports for several years have indicated that there is less good practice in Welsh second language than in other subjects. A group was established in September 2012 to review the provision of Welsh second language at Key Stages 3 and 4. The final report of the group, published on 27 September 2013,

(<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/publications/wagreviews/one-lanuage-for-all/?lang=en>) highlighted several barriers to the teaching and learning of Welsh and included a number of recommendations for the Welsh Government to consider.

We will now take time to reflect on the recommendations in the context of the wider review of assessment and the National Curriculum, work being taken forward in response to the review of qualifications and the discussion on the future of the Welsh language. We will respond in full to all these recommendations in due course.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

Huw Lewis AC / AM

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