



Ein cyf/Our ref MA(P)EM/4761/17

Sian Gwenllian AM
Acting Chair
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

15 January 2018

Dear Sian,

Thank you for your letter of 1 December further to my appearance before the Committee on 16 November for scrutiny on the Welsh Language budget. This letter provides the information you asked for in your letter.

Overall spending on the Welsh language and five-year profile of expenditure

As a 33-year strategy, future governments will have to make decisions about their funding priorities throughout the life of the Cymraeg 2050 strategy. It is possible that the budget and existing resources to promote the language will need to be reprioritised to achieve our aims. For example, the balance of financial allocation by age group in view of the importance of introducing the language to children as early as possible.

In terms of this Government, the purpose of the Welsh language budget in my portfolio is to support the implementation of the strategy and to drive the Cymraeg 2050 agenda forward. The draft budget allocation is £38.325m for 2018-19 and 2019-20. Profiles of expenditure beyond these two years are not available as future budgets have not been set.

The essence of the strategy is to promote the view that the Welsh language is an issue that is addressed across all policy areas. Therefore, in addition to direct funding to promote innovation and support to drive the Strategy forward, each ministerial portfolio will contribute to the delivery of the vision set out in Cymraeg 2050, and we will be liaising with the relevant teams.

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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.

Support for Mudiad Meithrin

I am glad to understand that additional information provided to the Committee by Mudiad Meithrin has further clarified the additional Welsh-medium early years and childcare provision needed to achieve the aims of Cymraeg 2050.

Early years education and childcare provision, and the take-up of provision, is not uniform. As a result, modelling provision in this sector, and using it as a basis to project take-up of school provision is complex. The aims set out in Cymraeg 2050 and its work programme for 2017-21 relating to the early years sector focus on numbers of settings rather than numbers of children, but we of course must ensure an increase in numbers of children attending Welsh-medium provision as an access point for Welsh-medium education, creating the foundations upon which other aspects of Cymraeg 2050 will be built. By working with stakeholders across the early years and childcare sector, we will aim to build a more detailed picture of the nature and take-up of provision. This will enable us to refine our modelling and consider which further targets are needed in order to achieve the overall aim of a million speakers.

Sabbatical Scheme

There have been three independent evaluations of the Sabbatical Scheme since it started in 2005:

- Evaluation of the National Practitioners' Training Programme and Sabbaticals Scheme (2007)
- Evaluation of the Extended National Practitioners' Training Programme Pilot (2010)
- Review of the Welsh-language Sabbatical Scheme for educational practitioners: participant experiences 2011-2012 (2014)

The Sabbatical Scheme has evolved since the original model, based on the evaluation findings, and on demand from the sector. As part of the Welsh Education Strategy BEL (5164), £1.550m is allocated annually to fund the three-month and 5-week sabbatical scheme courses, which provide intensive Welsh language training for teachers and support staff. The courses are delivered on three levels:

- **Entry level** – for teaching assistants working in English-medium primary schools (five week full-time course)
- **Foundation level** – for teachers working in English-medium primary schools (11 week full-time course)
- **Higher level** – for teachers, teaching assistants and FE lecturers working in Welsh-medium settings (a range of part-time courses for specific cohorts, from 18-20 days).

In September 2017 we expanded the Sabbatical Scheme to provide an extended year-long sabbatical programme aimed specifically at primary teachers working in English-medium schools. Expanding the sabbatical period will enable participants to significantly develop their Welsh-language skills, reflecting the increased expectations of Welsh-language provision that will be placed on all schools as part of the introduction of the Welsh language continuum.

A further evaluation of the Sabbatical Scheme is being planned, with a view to the work starting in April 2018 and to be undertaken over a period of 2 years.

Promoting the Language – Working with SMEs

The Cymraeg in Business scheme stems from a pilot scheme carried out by ten of the Mentrau Iaith during the last financial year. The pilot was developed jointly with the Welsh Government and the Welsh Language Commissioner with the aim of collecting feedback

about the kind of support that SMEs would benefit from receiving to encourage them to make greater use of Welsh.

The Mentrau Iaith approached us following the pilot with a proposal to provide a national service for SMEs. The aim of their work is to work intensively with small businesses to improve their understanding of working bilingually, to improve the bilingual customer service they provide by offering advice to put practical measures in place. These include making the language more visible by providing bilingual signage and literature, encouraging businesses to undertake bilingual marketing on social media and to identify staff who can offer a Welsh service to their customers.

There are ten officers based in local Mentrau Iaith led by a national manager. The network is funded by grant to the umbrella body, Mentrau Iaith Cymru. It is a condition of the grant agreement that an evaluation report is presented at the end of the implementation period. The report must include a record of lessons learned as well and identify the difference it has made to the use of Welsh in target areas. We are also considering conducting an external review to evaluate the work in due course.

Welsh Language BEL

The purpose of Welsh Language BEL 6020 is to support efforts to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh. £3.913 m has been allocated in the draft budget for this line in 2018-19 and 2019-20, compared with £3.964m in 2017-18.

As I explained to the Committee, the small reduction of £51k to this BEL, together with the corresponding rise in Welsh Language Commissioner BEL 6021, is an administrative adjustment to ensure that all of the Commissioner's budget comes from the same budget line in 2018-19. During 2017-18, £51k will be transferred from the Welsh Language BEL 6020 to the Welsh Language Commissioner BEL 6021 to ensure the Welsh Language Commissioner BEL 6021 corresponds with the whole of the Commissioner's budget for 2017-18.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate the fact that there has been a transfer during the year of £2.3m between Welsh in Education BEL 5164 and the Welsh Language BEL 6020. In addition, there will a transfer out of the BEL of £44k for costs relating to the Welsh Language Tribunal. Therefore, the total sum available to Welsh Language BEL 6020 in 2017-18, following transfers, is £6.169m. The transfers will be reflected in the Second Supplementary Budget 2017-18, which is due to be tabled in February. In terms of allocations under line BEL 6020, I enclose below details of 2017-18 allocations. 2018-19 allocations will be finalised following confirmation of the final vote on Final Budget 2018-19 later in January.

Grants to Promote the Use of Welsh 2017-18	£
Mentrau Iaith	2,234,000
Mentrau Iaith Cymru (umbrella body)	110,000
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	852,000
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol	603,000
Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru	46,000
Merched y Wawr	84,000
Association of Welsh Translators and Interpreters	50,000
Young Farmers	90,000
Papurau Bro	88,000
	4,157,000

Welsh Language Promotion Programme 2017-18	£
Cymraeg 2050 grant (Innovation grant)	425,000
Cymraeg in Business (10 officers working with SMEs)	400,000
Marketing campaigns	270,000
Promotion projects, research and evaluation	687,000
Technology projects	100,000
Programme funded posts – Welsh language promotion	130,000
	2,012,000

Proposals for a Welsh Language Bill

At the current stage of development, it is envisaged that implementation of the Welsh Language Bill is affordable within the Welsh Language BEL. However, while the overall cost is not anticipated to exceed the BEL planning assumptions, the proportion of funding split between the component activities within the BEL are likely to be different.

The proportion of the funding split post Bill cannot be identified at this stage as it is dependent on policy choices yet to be made. A Regulatory Impact Assessment is under development and will be laid before the Assembly, alongside the Bill at introduction.

Raising School Standards BEL

The Cabinet Secretary for Education and I published our Welsh in Education: Action Plan 2017-2021 on 18 December which sets out our direction for the development of Welsh-medium and Welsh language education over the next four years, in line with the vision of *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*.

Spending and future budget decisions will be made in line with the actions included in the Plan.

International Support

With regard to Ysgol Gymraeg Llundain, the First Minister approved a three-year grant to the school (£90,000 p.a.) in 2015. This funding cycle will come to an end in August 2018. I will be considering further funding implications over coming months.

Yours sincerely



Eluned Morgan AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning