



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-783
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/01582/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
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Cardiff Bay
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2 July 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 20 June about the petition calling for action to ensure the equality of curriculum for Welsh Medium Schools; as you note in your letter we have corresponded previously on this matter.

May I begin by saying that I do appreciate the frustration felt by teachers and learners at being unable to study for certain qualifications in the language of their choice. Looking to the future, equal rights for both languages is central to the planning for the new curriculum for Wales. Let me reassure you that the specific needs of Welsh medium teaching and learning are being fully considered as the arrangements for the new curriculum structure, including assessment arrangements, are developed.

Turning to your specific questions, the Welsh Government's expectations of Qualifications Wales are set out in the Qualifications Wales Act 2015. The Act gives Qualifications Wales two principal aims and the organisation must act in a way it considers appropriate for the purpose of achieving them (Qualifications Wales Act 2015 s.3).

These aims are about ensuring that qualifications and the qualifications system are effective for meeting the reasonable needs of learners in Wales and promoting public confidence in qualifications and the qualifications system. Qualifications Wales must, when considering what is appropriate for the purpose of achieving these aims, have regard to various matters. These matters include the "the desirability of promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language, including through the availability of assessment arrangements that provide for assessment through the medium of Welsh language, and of qualifications that otherwise promote or facilitate the use of the Welsh language" (Qualifications Wales Act 2015 s.3(2)(b)).

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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.

Qualifications Wales advise me that it works with awarding bodies to encourage them to offer Welsh medium and bilingual provision. For example, Qualifications Wales has established an awarding body group in order to work together to identify some of the challenges awarding bodies face and identify ways of supporting them in the development and quality assurance of Welsh-medium and bilingual qualifications and assessment.

Qualifications Wales, via the grant allocation it receives from the Welsh Government, provides financial support for awarding bodies to provide Welsh medium qualification specifications and assessment through its competitive grant process. In financial year 2017/18 £158K was claimed against this grant of which £121K was claimed by awarding bodies based outside of Wales.

The Welsh Government invests around £2.6m annually on resources to support the teaching and learning of Welsh as a subject and other subjects and qualifications through the medium of Welsh. These are resources which are not available commercially as the market is not financially viable. Resources are commissioned following consulting with practitioners and other stakeholders to identify their needs and the gap in current provision.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in grey ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education