

Janet Finch- Saunders MS
Chair of Petitions Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

13 October 2020

Dear Janet

Petition P-05-992 We call on the Welsh Government to create a common body of knowledge about Welsh history that all pupils will learn

Thank you for your letter dated 30th September, 2020.

Estyn agreed with Welsh Government to undertake a state of the nation thematic survey in response to two recommendations made by the Culture, Welsh language and Communications Committee on the teaching of Welsh History, Culture and Heritage in November 2019. The recommendations outline that Estyn should review the teaching of Welsh history in schools and the evidence of the extent to which schools are meeting the requirements of the GCSE, AS and A level specifications on teaching Welsh content. In addition, the review should assess how diversity is taught in schools and consider if the history taught in schools is representative of all of Wales' communities and their international connections.

In light of recent events including the work of the Black Lives Matter movement, Estyn has agreed to a request by Welsh Government that the review take account of Welsh and wider BAME history, identity and culture. The project plan has been updated to reflect this.

The state of the nation report will reflect the current standards, provision and leadership of the teaching of Welsh and BAME history and culture in schools. It will take evidence from a sample of primary schools, secondary schools, special schools and sixth form providers across Wales. The review will also capture examples of best practice to exemplify where Welsh and BAME history and culture is taught effectively. It may suggest key areas for action.

Estyn will gather evidence through visits to schools, telephone calls or virtual meetings with school leaders, telephone conversations with key professionals, engaging with the BAME Communities, contributions and cynefin in the new curriculum working group led by Professor Charlotte Williams, information from recent inspections and other relevant thematic reports.

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Mae Estyn yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg a Saesneg. Bydd gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn y naill iaith neu'r llall yn cael yr un flaenoriaeth.	Estyn welcomes correspondence in both English and Welsh. Correspondence received in either language will be given equal priority.
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The methodology and timing of the thematic review was reviewed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic as visits to schools were put on hold in March 2020. It is difficult to confirm definitively when the report will be finalised and published but it will likely be summer 2021 at the earliest. Evidence will now include telephone calls and virtual meetings with schools, ITE providers and key professionals during the second half of the Autumn term. This will help us form initial judgements on the provision and leadership of teaching for Welsh and BAME history and culture. We plan to build on these initial findings by hopefully visiting schools and providers to gain first hand evidence where possible in the Spring term. This will enable us to triangulate information and to make judgements on standards and pupils' attitudes to learning about Welsh and BAME history and culture.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Meilyr Rowlands'.

Meilyr Rowlands

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of
Education and Training in Wales