



John Griffiths MS
Chair
Local Government and Housing Committee

SeneddTai@senedd.cymru

15 September 2021

Dear Mr Griffiths

Consultation – Priorities for the Local Government and Housing Committee

Thank you very much for the opportunity to take part in the consultation above. My office wrote to you on 19 July to ask you to consider the Welsh language in your work as a committee. I attach a copy of the letter for your information. The letter discusses a number of key issues in the context of delivering the Cymraeg 2050 strategy. I ask you to consider those issues, please, when choosing the priorities that you will set for the committee when planning its work programme. The following needs are clear:

- Legislation and policies need to be scrutinised in detail to ensure that consideration of the Welsh language is mainstreamed into them.
- The committee should ensure that the Welsh language is protected and promoted as public organisations work together formally more and more.
- There needs to be consistency in the policies of Welsh planning authorities in the context of the Welsh language.
- The Welsh Government must provide guidance on how to assess the impact of planning on the Welsh language and how planning policies should promote the use of the Welsh language.

Another key issue to which the letter referred, which is currently the subject of intense public debate, is the housing situation in Wales. A second homes crisis has been

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highlighted in a number of communities across Wales and a report on the issue was published by Dr Simon Brooks in March 2021. Since then, the Government has announced measures to respond to the report's recommendations.¹ We believe that the Committee should scrutinise the adequacy of these plans and the timescale for their implementation to ensure that they will indeed respond adequately to the challenge.

As noted in the previous letter, the committee has a vital role to play in the effort to reach the Cymraeg 2050 targets. I would be happy to work with you in aiming for this goal.

Yours sincerely,



Aled Roberts
Welsh Language Commissioner

Copy to: Delyth Jewell MS, Chair of Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

¹ [Second homes: letter from the Welsh Government](#)