



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-655  
Ein cyf/Our ref:FM -/00874/15

William Powell AM  
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14 October 2015

Dear William,

I am writing in response to your letter of 29 September 2015 seeking my views on a petition presented to the Petitions Committee regarding rights for Welsh speakers in the private sector.

Since the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 ('the Measure') came into force, I have been wholeheartedly committed to its implementation.

So far, the current Government has created the role of the Welsh Language Commissioner; established the Welsh Language Tribunal, and presented the first set of regulations to specify Welsh Language Standards for approval by the National Assembly. This work has laid firm foundations for a new regulating regime for the Welsh language. I am pleased to say that by the end of this Government, over 200 organisations will be subject to standards, which is a significant step forward.

In accordance with the Measure, the order in which organisations have been made subject to standards has been led by the Welsh Language Commissioner, and has been set out in her rolling programme for conducting standards investigations. Many voluntary sector organisations were included in the Commissioner's second standards investigation, and Regulations are currently being prepared to specify standards for those organisations. Some private sector bodies also featured in her third standards investigation. We will be receiving the Commissioner's conclusions following her third investigation later this year. It is for the Commissioner to decide when to conduct further investigations which could include telephone, broadband, energy and transport companies as referred to in the petition.

As I stated in the Committee for Communities, Equality and Local Government on 24 September 2015, I am happy to commit to amending the Measure. This will deal with the concerns raised in the petition. The Measure was a significant milestone as far as legislating for the Welsh language is concerned; it confirmed the official status of the language and created a new system of enforcing duties that will improve the Welsh language services. However, during its implementation we have come across some elements that could be streamlined and improved. It is appropriate that we re-examine the Measure to ensure that it works in the most efficient manner.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carwyn Jones', written in a cursive style.

**CARWYN JONES**