



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-676
Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/05481/16

Mike Hedges AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
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6 December 2016

Dear Mike,

I am writing in response to your letter of 16 November, regarding Petition P-04-676 Establish a Welsh Language Champion in our Communities in Wales.

Further to the First Minister's response dated 27 January 2016, thank you for the opportunity to present my views on "the potential scope for community and town councils to consider appointing a Welsh language champion within their structures".

The idea proposed is one that I would be happy to support. Town and community councils have an important role in promoting the Welsh language within their communities.

I will be writing to One Voice Wales, as the body representing the community councils across the whole of Wales, making the case for councils to appoint a Welsh language champion and encouraging them to do so. Although such an appointment would be a matter for each community council to consider and act upon on a voluntary basis, I agree that the role could potentially contribute in strengthening alignment between local and national policies in relation to the Welsh language, as well as strengthening support for the Welsh language at local level through the work of the councils.

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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.

The *Mentrau Iaith* (Welsh Language Enterprises) are the first point of contact for matters relating to the Welsh language in local communities. There are currently 23 *Menter Iaith*, providing information, guidance and an access to the Welsh language. They have developed and grown over the last 25 years and have a wealth of local understanding and expertise. They are therefore natural partners for community councils in developing their Welsh language understanding and objectives. In my letter to One Voice Wales, I will be recommending that the Welsh Language Champion would want to collaborate with their local *Menter Iaith*.

Yours ever
Alun

Alun Davies AC/AM

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