



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-783
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02687/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
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Cardiff Bay
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11 December 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter received on 29 November about the petition Ensuring equality for Welsh Medium schools and the parity between provision in English and Welsh.

With regard to current Welsh-medium education planning, all local authorities must prepare and submit Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) to Welsh Government which detail how they plan and implement Welsh-medium education within their locality. How they must undertake this planning is outlined in the *Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand (Wales) Regulations 2013*, which is currently being reviewed.

The aim is to lay amended regulations before Assembly in 2019. This review of the regulations is driven by the ambition set out in the Welsh Government's Welsh language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*. The expansion of Welsh-medium education will be crucial if we are to meet the 1 million Welsh speakers target by 2050. The proposed amendments to the regulations should lead to increased provision of Welsh-medium education in line with specific targets set in the *Cymraeg 2050* strategy.

The local curriculum should primarily be determined by learner interest and demand. Schools and colleges should be providing opportunities which are in the best interests of their learners and we would expect them to use their professional judgement in how this is provided. Due to operational challenges faced by schools, it is not always viable to run all the courses on offer.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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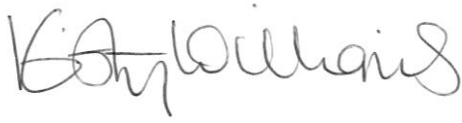
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Kirsty Williams'.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education