

Kirsty Williams MS
Minister for Education

23 December 2020

Dear Kirsty,

Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee Legacy Report for the Fifth Senedd

As 2020 draws to a close, the Culture Welsh language and Communications Committee is preparing for 2021 and undertaking an audit of the work done by the Committee during the Fifth Senedd.

It has been a busy and productive time for both the Committee and the Welsh Government, particularly given the considerable challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic this year.

To aid the Committee in its consideration of Legacy issues, the Committee is eager to receive an update from Welsh Government concerning the progress made in respect of the recommendations the following report:

Teaching of Welsh history

Please can you provide a progress report on actions against all seven recommendations which were accepted, or accepted in principle? In particular, Members are keen to know the progress of Estyn's thematic review of the teaching of Welsh history in schools.

The second recommendation of the report said: 'That the Curriculum for Wales 2022 should include guidance which sets out a common body of knowledge for all pupils studying history.' In your response, you explained that even though this recommendation had been rejected 'The curriculum guidance will also be clear about the importance of school curricula in general reflecting Wales, its cultural heritage and diversity, our languages and the values, histories and traditions of our communities and all our people.'

Please can you provide more detail, with examples, of how the guidance will deliver the intention to 'reflect Wales, its cultural heritage and diversity, our languages and the values, histories and traditions of our communities and all our people' when pupils are taught the new curriculum?



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Hitting the Right Note. Inquiry into Funding for and Access to Music Education

Following the Welsh Government's response to the first recommendation to transfer responsibility for the delivery of music services to an arms-length, national body, you commissioned the Music Services Feasibility Study which was discussed at our meeting on 16 January 2020. You have also provided an update on progress against all the recommendations from the report in your letter of 3 November 2020, including the fact that the operational guidance for music teaching in schools was revised in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on music activities.

Please can you let me know if the Music Services Stakeholder Consultation Group has been able to meet to consider the feasibility study report's suggestion to introduce a National Plan for Music Education, and other matters raised in the feasibility study report? If so, please can you provide a summary of the discussion and any agreed actions?

The Committee looks forward to receiving an update at your earliest convenience and no later than Tuesday 9 February 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Mary Jones

Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

