



Eich cyf/Your ref:P-03-262

William Powell AM
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA
petition@wales.gov.uk

25th November 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter dated 23 October regarding the Petitions Committee's report on the Academi Heddwch Cymru / Wales Peace Institute.

I wholly support the promotion of peace within our society but I agree with the Committee that further exploratory work is needed to consider the role and function that a Peace Institute could have within Wales. I note that that the Committee has not been able to come to a view on the details of how such an Institute would be constituted and that the petitioners themselves were reluctant to provide further detail on what they saw as the role, function and activities of a Peace Institute.

In these circumstances, I feel that the case for establishing a Peace Institute in Wales continues to be inconclusive. I note that the Committee has recommended further discussions between interested parties within the academic community and civic society to enable further scoping work to be undertaken. I agree that this would be an important step if a case for an Institute is to be established but I do not accept that this work should be facilitated by Welsh Government.

As the Committee has acknowledged, we are operating in times of considerable fiscal constraint. The Welsh Government is not in a position to devote resources to the level of exploratory and scoping work that is still required and I think, in any event, that this work would be better led by an independent organisation. I have concerns also that a Welsh Government facilitated discussion would set expectations about the establishment of the Peace Institute which may not then be realised. However, Welsh Government officials would be available to take part in discussions if that is helpful.

Yours sincerely

CARWYN JONES