

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref SF/LA/6200/11

Ann Jones
Chair
Communities, Equality and Local
Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

9 November 2011

Dear Ann,

Welsh language screening

During my appearance before the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee on 19 October I promised to send you a note about Welsh language screening within my department and within other Ministerial portfolios.

The Welsh Government takes very seriously its responsibility for promoting the use of the Welsh language. This is reflected in our Welsh language scheme, as approved by the Welsh Language Board in March 2011, which commits the Government to ensure that its policies support and facilitate the use of Welsh and, whenever possible, help the public in Wales to use Welsh as part of their day-to-day lives.


This commitment is supported by the integration of a Welsh language screening questionnaire into the Welsh Government's policy-making process. That policy-making process seeks to ensure:

- that our policies are underpinned by sustainable development, taking equality, social inclusion and our cross-cutting themes of regeneration, economic inactivity/skills, children and young people, child poverty, improving health and reducing inequalities in health into account
- that policies are integrated and joined up across all departments
- that policy interventions are deliverable, and will be value for money
- cohesion with other key policies, strategies and plans.

The policy-making process is used by all of the Government's departments, including the Department for Education and Skills, as policies are developed.

In addition, every Welsh Government Directorate has to prepare and maintain a *Welsh Language Action Plan*, in accordance with our Welsh language scheme. Those plans include reference to policies to be developed by each Directorate, whilst reflecting the commitment in the scheme to consider the impact of those policies on the language. As part of the Welsh language annual reporting cycle, each Directorate reports on the extent to which the language was considered as polices were developed.

The Welsh language questionnaire, and the preparation of Welsh Language Action Plans, provide a specific process for screening the Welsh language. This process is different to, and separate from, the equalities impact assessment process within the Government.. With regard to equalities impact assessment, an Inclusive Policy Making tool is used by Welsh Government officials in carrying out equality impact assessment for all protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and in meeting the requirements of the Welsh specific equality duties..

Yours sincerely


Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills