

Huw Lewis AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau  
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-677  
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00061/16

William Powell AM  
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
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21 January 2016

Dear William

## **EQUAL ACCESS TO WELSH LANGUAGE**

Thank you for your letter of 12 January with regards to petition P-04-677 Equal Access to Welsh Language from Regigijus Šiaučlūnas.

Thank you for the opportunity to give my views on the issues raised in advance of your first consideration of the petition. The provision of Welsh for Adults courses for people of all backgrounds is important to the Welsh Government and this was considered in the report of the Welsh for Adults Review Group published in 2013:

*“Learners and prospective learners from minority ethnic and immigrant groups are also targeted and examples were seen of good practice in targeting these groups and exemplary examples of success amongst some learners. However, these groups are not targeted in the same way as in the area of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).”*

Welsh Government officials are in discussion with regards to the parallels between Welsh for Adults and ESOL provision and ESOL providers are encouraged to incorporate some Welsh language training into their classes. However, it is important to note that Welsh for Adults course fees are currently determined by each individual provider.

In May 2015, I announced the establishment of a new national centre to be responsible for the strategic development of Welsh for Adults to the future. The University of Wales Trinity

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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.

Saint David is hosting the new centre and is in the process of developing its strategy for the future. The challenges that the new centre will need to address include increasing learner numbers, targeting new learners, responding to learners' needs and continuing with efforts to make fees consistent across Wales in order to ensure the lowest possible fee and equity for learners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Huw Lewis'.

**Huw Lewis AC / AM**

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