

Kirsty Williams AM

Minister for Education

Welsh Government

3 July 2019

Dear Kirsty,

Teaching Welsh history

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee has been looking at the teaching of Welsh history in schools. We have previously written to you on this topic in March to ask for further information about teacher training, the amount of time spent teaching Welsh history and the availability of teaching materials.

You also wrote to us in May to say that you will explore our suggestion for a thematic review of the teaching of Welsh history with the Chief Inspector at Estyn.

At our meeting on 26 June, the Committee took evidence from stakeholders on the Draft Curriculum for Wales 2022, published on 30 April.

During the meeting we heard from Ioan Rhys Jones from UCAC who raised concerns about the transferability of teaching skills. He said:

Rightly or wrongly, we're stepping into a situation where those who will have been taught to teach in England will not be able to do so in Wales, and there has to be a realisation and an understanding that that is the case. Our curriculum has been quite different to England in many ways for a number of years. These changes now mean that we are going to make the pot smaller, unless there is going to be an investment in training those who come into the country as teachers of the Welsh curriculum... But we are coming to a crunch period in education in Wales, in as much as if you want to teach in Wales, you will have to be trained in Wales, and perhaps

the partnership that goes across the border as far as teacher training is concerned is going to come unstuck in that respect as well.

Please can you outline any impact assessments you have carried out, in advance of introducing the Draft Curriculum for Wales 2022, on the recruitment and retention of teaching professionals?

Please can you outline the evidence you have received on the effect of diverging curricula on teachers from England accessing teaching posts in Wales and vice versa?

I would be grateful if you could reply by 31 July.

Yours sincerely,



Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee