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Y Gweinidog Diwylliant a Chwaraeon
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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
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Christine Chapman
Chair – Communities, Equality
& Local Government Committee
National Assembly for Wales

26 March 2014

Dear Chris,

Communities, Equality & Local Government Committee – Inquiry into Public Libraries

Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee's inquiry into public libraries. As I stated during the meeting, the evidence that has been collected by the Committee will be invaluable for my expert review of public library services in Wales and I would be grateful for your consent to utilise this evidence as part of my review.

In response to the questions raised in Committee, I am pleased to provide the following additional information based on the latest information available to my officials at CyMAL.

1. Figures on the number of people who have signed up for e-magazine services?

From November 2013 to the end of January, 3994 new customers have registered for the service and the number of e-zines issued is as follows:

| Nov | Dec | Jan | Total |
|-------|--------|--------|--------|
| 5,033 | 11,744 | 15,835 | 32,612 |

2. Information on arrangements that are in place for libraries in relation to the roll-out of the Universal Credit scheme?

My officials have contacted Flintshire Library Service in relation to Mark Isherwood AMs' question on the roll-out of Universal Credit in Shotton and I can confirm that training sessions are already taking place in Connahs Quay Library linked to the introduction of Universal Credit. Connahs Quay Library was modernised following a Welsh Government Community Learning Library Grant of £300,000 in 2009-10.

3. A link to the Carnegie UK Report: A New Chapter - Public Library Services in the 21st Century?

Documents relating to the above report, including the Welsh factsheet are available at:

<http://www.carnegieuktrust.org.uk/publications/2012/a-new-chapter---discussion-paper>

Once again I would like to thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your enquiry and I look forward to reading your report.

Yours sincerely,



John Griffiths AC / AM
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