

Ken Skates AC / AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-617
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00767/15

William Powell AM
Chair - petitions committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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29 June 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 18 June regarding the petition 'Stop the hiving off of public libraries to the voluntary sector' with further comments from the original petitioner.

I note the petitioner's concern surrounding the non-statutory nature of the recently issued *Guidance on community managed libraries and the statutory provision of public library services*, and that the Welsh Public Library Standards are also only guidelines. My officials have advised me that both would require a change in law or a new Act to replace the 1964 Public Libraries Act to make such guidance part of the statutory nature of public libraries.

The petitioner refers to the Welsh Government's responsibility towards public libraries. As part of the 1964 Act it is my duty to "superintend" public library services in Wales and this is achieved through the Welsh Public Library Standards and my officials continue to monitor the ongoing changes to library provision by local authorities.

Yours ever

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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