



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-672  
Ein cyf/Our ref:FM -/00005/16

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

[committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk)

21 January 2016

Dear William,

I am writing in response to your letter of 6 January seeking my views on a petition presented to the Petitions Committee regarding the use of the Welsh language by the public sector.

The Welsh Government believes that the Welsh language is an integral part of our culture and society. This is reflected, for instance, in the recent Wellbeing of Future Generations Act made by the National Assembly which includes 'A thriving Welsh language' within the seven National Wellbeing Goals. These goals were thoroughly consulted upon with the people of Wales through a 12 month National Conversation on the Wales We Want campaign.

The Welsh Government appreciates the financial pressures on public bodies. The Welsh language standards will shortly replace the Welsh Language Schemes currently operated by most public bodies in Wales that were developed under the 1993 Welsh Language Act. We would expect those who are required to comply with the requirements of the standards to do so with minimal effort, as most standards relate closely to the requirements already found in current Welsh Language Schemes.

The standards include duties to be placed on organisations to offer individuals the opportunity to specify the language (Welsh or English) in which they would wish to communicate with the organisation. This would be documented so that future communication is made in the language of choice, resulting in improved efficiency and ultimately reduce waste.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

The Draft Budget for 2016-17 was published on 8 December and reflects the Welsh Government's focus on the services which mean the most to the people of Wales. This includes nearly £300m extra for the Welsh NHS and £230m new capital investment to support public service infrastructure.

The full draft budget along with a narrative outlining Welsh Government priorities can be found here:

<http://wales.gov.uk/funding/budget/final-budget-2015-16/?lang=en>

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carwyn Jones', written in a cursive style.

**CARWYN JONES**