



Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref: MA/LG/0223/21

Rebecca Pow MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs

15 March 2021

Dear Rebecca,

My officials have been liaising with Defra officials on the preparation of the Reservoirs Act (Panels of Civil Engineers) (Applications and Fees) Regulations 2021. This is a piece of legislation which is a no procedure Statutory Instrument and therefore is not required to be laid before the respective legislatures. With this in mind, Welsh Government officials approached Defra officials to seek agreement for the Statutory Instrument to be made bilingually. Defra officials agreed to this approach, and Welsh Government officials have subsequently proceeded on that basis.

I understand the Wales Office has since intervened and prevented this approach by stating UK Ministers cannot consider bilingual instruments. My officials have been provided with very limited rationale for this position, which I do not agree with. I am therefore writing to express my disappointment at the position that has been taken and would ask that you re-consider. Defra has statutory duties to provide services bilingually and promote the Welsh language in its Welsh Language Scheme, as agreed with the Welsh Language Commissioner. Committing to creating a bilingual instrument would be in keeping with the spirit of those duties under the Scheme. In the event that this position remains unchanged, I would request a response setting out the reasons for the UK Government's position.

I am copying this letter to the First Minister, Counsel General and the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language. I am also copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales and Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to express my dissatisfaction with the position taken by the Wales Office.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

In addition, a copy of this letter will be sent to the Senedd's Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'L' and 'G'.

Lesley Griffiths AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Amgylchedd, Ynni a Materion Gwledig
Minister for Environment, Energy and Rural Affairs