

Kirsty Williams MS

Minister for Education

24 November 2020

Dear Kirsty,

**Issues arising from the Committee's meeting on 12 November with the National Library of Wales**

On 12 November the Committee held an evidence session with the National Library of Wales during which the issue of the new curriculum for Wales was discussed. In response to a question by Mick Antoniw MS, the National Librarian Pedr ap Llwyd said:

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“We believe the national library, with its collections, has a huge contribution to make to teaching and to the national curriculum in Wales, and I believe the reviewers make that point pretty strongly. There has been no connection at all, no communication at all, between the library and education officials in Welsh Government. As you know too well, we work within the culture section, and we would really, really welcome a discussion to amplify to the education Minister the contribution the national library could make to assist the delivery of bilingual material that would assist teachers, pupils and institutions hugely.”<sup>1</sup>

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The National Library has considerable resources which could support the Welsh Government's aims and ambitions in terms of the development of the new curriculum for Wales. As a Committee, we can see clear potential benefits for further cooperation and engagement between both parties in this area.

In light of the above, I would be grateful for your views on what consideration the Welsh Government have given to maximising the use of the National Library's assets in the development of the curriculum. I would also be grateful if you could arrange a meeting between the Welsh Government and the National Library to engage further on this subject and provide the Committee with an update when it has taken place.

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<sup>1</sup> Record of Proceedings, paragraphs 70 and 71 – 12 November 2020



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I am copying this letter to the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism; the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee; and to the National Library of Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Mary Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Helen Mary Jones

Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.





Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref

18 December 2020

Dear Helen Mary,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 November regarding issues arising from the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee meeting with the National Library of Wales.

Following publication of the draft Curriculum for Wales in 2019, we were very grateful to receive input and involvement from the National Library of Wales during the feedback phase, with its representatives attending events for key stakeholders.

Our approach to supporting the new curriculum is set out in *Our national mission*, our strategy to improve the school system, and an update was published in October which is available at:

<https://gov.wales/our-national-mission-0>.

In addition, in *The Journey to 2022*, we have committed to developing bilingual resources to support the new curriculum through 2021 and 2022. This is available with the Curriculum for Wales at:

<https://hwb.gov.wales/curriculum-for-wales/curriculum-for-wales-the-journey-to-2022/>

We will need to work closely with a range of organisations who will be critical to ensuring that suitable resources are available. Organisations such as the National Library for Wales have an important role in supporting schools and there is an opportunity for genuine collaboration. I therefore very much welcome the opportunity for my officials to discuss with the National Library of Wales how its unique resources can be used to support schools and settings in implementing the Curriculum for Wales.

I have asked my officials to contact the National Library of Wales to expedite this.

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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kirsty Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a distinct 'S' at the end.

**Kirsty Williams AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Addysg

Minister for Education

**LEAVE BLANK TO ALLOW FOR PRINTING**

**To: Kirsty Williams AC/AM**  
**Minister for Education**  
**From: Eleri Goldsmith**  
**Ext: 03000625495**

[Ref]  
CC: Georgina Haarhoff  
Lloyd Hopkin  
Pat McCarthy  
Nicola Guy

**Date: December 2020**

**Issues arising from the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee meeting with the National Library of Wales**

1. Helen Mary Jones, Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, has written following the Committee's meeting with the National Library of Wales on 12 November.
2. The letter refers to a comment made by the National Librarian Pedr ap Llwyd that "there has been no connection at all, no communication at all, between the library and education officials in Welsh Government" regarding the potential contribution the National Library of Wales' resources could make to supporting the implementation of the Curriculum for Wales.
3. The letter also asked for a meeting to be arranged between the Welsh Government and the National Library to engage further on this subject
4. A draft response is attached.