

Jane Hutt AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Cyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref JH-/10461/21

Jack Sargeant  
Chair  
Petitions Committee

petitions@senedd.wales

16 September 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 September on the petition from Neil App Jones about the Inauguration of an Honorary National System of Awards.

May I begin by congratulating you on your recent appointment to the Chair of the Petitions Committee.

The UK Honours system is intended to recognise and celebrate outstanding achievement, dedication and commitment, and those whose work has brought distinction to British and Welsh life.

As a Devolved Administration, the Welsh Government cannot make its own awards as part of the UK Honours system and at this time there are no plans to establish a Wales specific Honours system. You will be aware the Welsh Government does contribute to the UK Honours system as a means of recognising the achievements and dedication of the people of Wales and, although not part of the UK Honours system, the Welsh Government in 2014 established the publicly nominated St David Awards which is the national awards of Wales.

I remain steadfastly committed to embracing diversity and improving inclusion throughout our society, so you will not be surprised to learn I believe consideration should be given to how the UK Honours System is made more inclusive, not just in terms of its processes but also in relation to its historical cultural context. The Welsh Government stands ready to input to any such review.

We do have an opportunity to make a positive difference in Wales. Over the last 12 months we have made changes designed to raise the profile and widen the reach of Honours. In

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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.

addition to extending our networks, we have hosted a series of awareness-raising sessions with stakeholders to talk through the Honours process, and to provide help and support with the often daunting task of preparing a nomination. There is still much more to do if we are to see a more diverse range of Honours awarded in Wales.

I hope that my reflections and summary of the work being undertaken is helpful to your Committee and, in particular, demonstrates while we don't have plans at this time to put in place a Wales-specific honours system, there is much we can do within the current arrangements in Wales to ensure the many outstanding individuals in our society are recognised for their achievements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane', with a horizontal line above it.

**Jane Hutt AS/MS**

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