

Jeremy Miles MS
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Dyddiad | Date: 8 October 2021

Pwnc | Subject: **Update on the progress of support for the Welsh language**

Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for attending the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee on 29 September to discuss your portfolio. During the meeting you agreed to provide further detail on a number of issues which arose.

Vaccine passports

Please can you update the Committee on the progress in ensuring the COVID Pass is available in Welsh and the electronic process of applying for one is also available bilingually?

Online learning

Please can you provide the figures for the number of people learning Welsh online with the National Centre for Learning Welsh? If available, can you also provide the figures for those using the 'Say Something in Welsh' and 'Duolingo' apps?

Members are concerned about the provision for Welsh learners and speakers where digital access is an issue. In the Welsh Government's **response to the report** on the effects of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups, you set out a number of actions the Government will take to tackle barriers to accessing digital networks and raising digital skills, in response to the second recommendation on 'Digital Inclusion'. Please can you set out the timetable for delivering these actions?

Community use of Welsh

In the '[Cymraeg 2050 – our plan for 2021 – 2026](#)' action plan published in July, the Welsh Government has committed to:

'Establish and support a commission to strengthen the position of Welsh as a community language.'

Please can you set out:

- The timetable for establishing this group;
- The terms of reference for the group, in particular, its responsibilities towards language planning and promotion;
- The process for appointing membership of this group and what types of background, expertise and experience you will seek from the appointed members;
- How the group will be expected to work with and/or advise the Welsh Government; and
- The criteria for judging the success of the group.

Proposed Welsh Language Education Bill

During the meeting you mentioned the Welsh Government will be bringing forward a Welsh Language Education Bill to 'strengthen statutory frameworks'. Please can you provide the Committee with greater detail on the timing and content of the Bill?

In particular, Members felt that the right to Welsh-medium education can be hard for families to take up without additional support. Can you set out your plans for funding and any additional support for implementing this legislation so that it enables all those who wish to access Welsh-medium education to do so?

Welsh Language Standards Regulations

Thank you for offering to keep the Committee informed of your timetable for introducing Welsh Language Standards Regulations during the Sixth Senedd. You said that this work will be informed by work to better understand how the standards have increased Welsh language usage and challenges faced by organisations that prevent them from providing Welsh-medium services.

Please can you tell the Committee how this work will be carried out and if your intention is that this work will be used to inform the Draft Regulations relating to Welsh language standards for Transport for Wales?

National Eisteddfod for Wales

In your paper to the Committee, you note that the National Eisteddfod was allocated £200,000 from the COVID-19 Response Reserve to 'ensure they have the necessary resources to plan the

2022 and 2023 National Eisteddfodau' and 'support a community and social inclusion pilot project'.

Please can you inform the Committee how this money has been spent and if the organisation has sufficient funds for it to carry out its objectives?

Has there been any discussion with the National Eisteddfod about longer-term funding support beyond the pandemic?

Late immersion provision

Please can you provide further details on the funding to support school-level late immersion?

- Which local authorities are currently providing school-level late immersion provision?
- Which local authorities have applied for this additional funding so far?
- What is the process for local authorities to apply for funding? and
- How is the funding being promoted?

Other matters

Finally, I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with a copy, when published, of your response to the recommendations on the rapid review of the National Centre for Learning Welsh, and your response to the statement by the National Museum Wales and the Arts Council for Wales on the Widening Access Reports?

In order to inform the work of the committee, I would be grateful for a response by 5 November 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee