



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref MA/JMEWL/4270/21

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and
International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1SN

4 March 2022

Dear Delyth

Thank you for your letter of 4 February following my evidence to the Committee on Welsh Language spending plans in the 2022-23 Draft Budget. I have set out below further detail on the information requested, some of which were raised at our session on 19 January.

Economy and the Welsh language

The Arfor Programme was funded by the Welsh Government between to pilot innovative approaches to promoting entrepreneurship, business growth, and community resilience whilst supporting the Welsh language. It has targeted support in Gwynedd, Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire and was delivered over a two year period 2019/20 and 2020/21 by the 4 local authorities working on local and collaborative projects. As part of the programme, funding was set aside for an evaluation of the two year programme, which was undertaken by Wavehill Consulting and published in October 2021. A copy of the evaluation is attached for the Committee's information at Annex 1.

Work is being carried out on proposals for Arfor 2 programme in collaboration with the Designated Member, Cefin Campbell MS as part of the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru. We will take account of the experience and evaluation of the previous programme which is complementary to other existing or planned activity which is of relevance. As part of this work consideration will be given to developing an appropriate suite of performance measures for the programme.

Work is underway with the OECD to look at existing structures and design the best possible model for longer term institutional arrangements to be developed where local authorities across Wales can build on partnership working in pursuit of shared aims and in addressing shared challenges and opportunities together.

The main reason for establishing the Economy and Welsh Language Roundtable was to discuss the economic and linguistic challenges facing many rural areas in west Wales as a

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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.

consequence of the UK leaving the EU. This remit was extended as a result of COVID-19 and what the possible effects this could have on the local economy and the vibrancy of the Welsh language. The discussions of the roundtable have been broad with the main issues surrounding the challenges of outward migration and the effects this has on the long term sustainability of our rural and Welsh speaking communities. A list of action points for the group were agreed in the last meeting and can be found at Annex 2.

We are currently consulting on the Welsh Communities Housing Plan which have proposals on supporting the establishment of community-led social enterprises and co-operatives. The consultation ended on the 22 February and we will provide further information to the Committee on the interventions in due course.

Welsh-medium education

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh

As part of our Co-operation agreement we will be investing an additional £8m by 2024-25 to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh. The total budget allocation over the three year period, as allocated in Draft Budget 2022-23, is set out below.

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£1.5m	£4.5m	£8.0m

In 2022-23, the Coleg will receive a total of £1.5m, based on the plans we have already received for expanding further education provision and starting suitable capacity building support among the apprenticeship providers. Up to £0.4m of the total for the year will go towards projects to support initial teacher training and higher education.

Over the coming months, officials will discuss specific plans with the Coleg and the Centre for 2023-24 and 2024-25, to achieve the aims set out in the Co-operation agreement to expand the provision of post-16 Welsh-medium apprenticeships and further education as well as providing free Welsh lessons for 16-25 year olds. We have already received a request from the Coleg for the period under review, to expand provision in the post-16 sector.

When more robust plans are in place, I will be in a position to share the details with the Committee.

Mudiad Meithrin

The Sefydлу a Symud / Set up and Succeed (SAS) programme to expand provision in the early years was established in 2017 through additional annual funding of £1m to Mudiad Meithrin. During the first 3 years of the programme Mudiad achieved its target of establishing 40 new provisions. This funding has continued in to this Senedd term with a target to expand provision by 60 new groups over 5 years.

Mudiad Meithrin commissioned its own independent evaluation of the SAS programme at the end of the first 3 years. Recommendations from this evaluation have been received and considered. In addition my officials meet regularly with Mudiad Meithrin to discuss the development of the programme and explore expansion through alternative groups. In addition to the traditional model, a Cylch Meithrin has been located within an English medium day nursery. Other groups established are Cylch Meithrin sessions offered within

English medium day nurseries, with the staff in those settings supported through Mudiad Meithrin's language immersion training programme, 'Croesi'r Bont'. These alternative groups offer the opportunity to establish provision and create demand in areas where it would be more challenging to establish traditional Cylch provision.

As confirmed at Committee, and as announced on [2 February](#), an additional £191,000 is being allocated to support Mudiad Meithrin this financial year. This includes:

- £50,000 to support Mudiad in reopening as many Cylchoedd Ti a Fi as possible in a safe manner post COVID-19 restrictions;
- £10,000 to boost work undertaken to look at the needs of ALN and the Welsh language, 10 years after publishing an independent study by an external organisation (MABIS);
- £25,000 to double the number of settings that receive "Cylch i Bawb" diversity and inclusion resource pack to support the Welsh Government's priorities under the Race Equality Action Plan, a Programme for Government commitment;
- £10,000 for production of a series of adverts to recruit staff to Cylchoedd Meithrin and the early years sector / training opportunities in regional papers and in every papur bro;
- £76,000 to support the Cam wrth Gam Schools Programme, which delivers Childcare courses through the medium of Welsh, by attracting new schools to the scheme, and enabling Mudiad Meithrin to offer financial support to the existing schools participating in the scheme; and
- £20,000 to fund a specific resource to support Cylchoedd Meithrin to respond to feedback from Estyn in areas such as curriculum and immersion.

Increasing the number of Welsh-medium teachers

In line with the Cymraeg 2050 work plan for 2021-2026 we are preparing a 10-year plan for the Welsh in Education workforce. The plan will align with the local authority Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) recently submitted for approval and will include an analysis of the current capacity of the workforce as well as future capacity needs in order to respond to local authority plans for expanding Welsh-medium education. The plan will aim to address the following key aims:

- increase the number of teachers able to teach Welsh as a subject and other subjects through the medium of Welsh;
- increase the number of practitioners supporting learners who are able to work through the medium of Welsh;
- support the workforce to develop their Welsh language skills to ensure that Welsh is used across the curriculum, and
- develop leadership capacity for Welsh-medium schools and equip all leaders with skills to strategically plan the development of Welsh within a culture of schools as learning organisations.

In the 2022-23 draft budget additional funding has been allocated and will be invested over the next three years to implement the forthcoming 10-year plan for the Welsh in education workforce. In addition to the £0.8m for Iaith Athrawon Yfory, a further £1.845m will be allocated in 2022-23, an increase of £1m compared to 2021-22, with further increases of £0.5m in 2023-24 and £2m in 2024-25. This funding will be prioritised to support the aims of the plan.

We will also continue to invest approximately £6.4m to support Welsh-language and Welsh-medium professional learning via the Sabbatical Scheme and funding allocated to regional

consortia and local authorities to address regional and local needs. This professional learning is largely targeted at supporting practitioners to develop their skills in order to teach Welsh as part of the new Curriculum for Wales. This in turn should have an impact on the language skills of young people by the time they have completed their education.

I've also recently announced that courses via the National Centre for Learning Welsh will be available for free for education practitioners from September 2022. These courses, along with the Sabbatical Scheme and regional consortia and local authority delivery will ensure that there are courses available nationally on all levels to enable practitioners to continuously develop their Welsh language skills in accordance with the professional standards.

Additional funding announcement - £1 million

As noted by the Committee, on the [18 January](#) I announced funding of £1m for projects to encourage more widespread use of Welsh. This has been met through the repurposing of budgets within the Education and Welsh Language Main Expenditure Group (MEG).

Funding priorities have been agreed in line with the *Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26*. The projects prioritised were selected on the basis that they supported or enhanced the activities funded from core funding of these organisations. In the case of the National Eisteddfod, the additional funding provides stability for the organisation as it rebuilds post-COVID so that it can continue to promote culture and language use and commission new literature and art projects for future generations. Depending on the success of Tregaron and subsequent Eisteddfodau, the Eisteddfod will be able to build back its reserves.

The specific projects funded as part of the £1m allows innovation in new areas as well as boosting existing projects. The funding includes:

- £600,000 for Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Tregaron, to support the National Eisteddfod preparations for this year's event and meeting the rising costs associated with hosting a large national event as a result of COVID-19;
- £200,000 for the National Centre for Learning Welsh to support three innovative projects:
 - a scheme to support education workers who undertake the self-study Cymraeg Gwaith course;
 - a digital resource to help asylum seekers and refugees to learn spoken Welsh; and
 - short self-study courses for learners who do not have English as a first language
- £30,000 for Cymraeg i Blant / Cymraeg for Kids for the updating of the design and printing of 50,000 maternity folders and 100,000 scan cards promoting the programme, which will be distributed to all health boards in Wales.
- £100,000 to support our work on the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan for engagement activities to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to share their views on the proposed plan and analysing the responses.
- £100,000 for E-sgol to enable the project to hold two series of four-week revision sessions through Microsoft Teams after school for a variety of GCSE, AS and A levels up to the end of March 2022.

- £15,000 for Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / RhAG to further develop their website and to create videos to enable information around Welsh-medium education to be made available in community languages. This will support parents within minority groups whose children attend Welsh-medium education as well as those that have not yet considered Welsh-medium education as an option available to them.
- £10,000 for the promotion of Language Transmission – Môn Families Partnership which will contribute to work to develop an app which aims to increase the intergenerational transmission of Welsh.
- £25,000 to develop resources to work with Black, Asian and minority ethnic community groups to strengthen our messaging around Welsh-medium education, and opportunities to access Welsh and bilingual education even if the home language does not include English or Welsh.

Prosiect 2050

Dr Brooks will start the work on the commission (linked to the work of the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan) to understand the socioeconomic impact on the Welsh language shortly and I will update the Committee on the development of his work and how it will be used to influence policy decisions across the Welsh Government.

Withdrawal of the Helo Blod Lleol scheme

COVID-19 has changed the landscape in which we work, and our work has to change to respond to this. My rationale for withdrawing the Helo Blod Lleol service is because of the need to closely examine our priorities.

I have done this, and am repurposing the funds formerly allocated to Helo Blod Lleol to increase the use of our language in the light of the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, I want to increase the use of our language in the business sector in a different way, by examining what opportunities the cooperative sector offers us to do so. Working with communities to create cooperatives where we can freely use our Welsh answers several aspects of *The effects of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups: government response*, which I published last July. The Helo Blod service will still operate from our Business Wales service, providing information, short translations and a text checking service to businesses and charities who wish to increase their use of Welsh. My intention in doing this is that there will be *more* Welsh used via *more* delivery partners in the future than under the former way of working.

Housing and the language

Since the pandemic, Ministers have been working cross-government to look at the many issues surrounding affordability, second homes and the Welsh language. This has meant working across different portfolios to help create solutions to the many issues and concerns surrounding second homes. Central to this work is supporting the sustainability of the Welsh language and a thriving community language. I have discussed these matters with all relevant Ministers and we are all agreed on delivering on our Programme for Government priorities to ensure that we have practical solutions in place so that people can stay in their local communities. I welcome the opportunity to provide an update to the Committee at a future meeting.

Cymraeg 2050

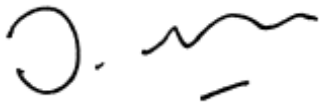
Cymraeg 2050 is a cross-government policy and all Ministers play their part in its delivery and I'm always looking for opportunities to incorporate the strategy into new and emerging policy areas. Senior officials from across Welsh Government are part of the *Cymraeg 2050* Programme Board where progress against the *Cymraeg 2050* targets are discussed and monitored as well as broader discussions around opportunities for cross governmental working and good practice. The Welsh Language Housing Plan noted above, is an excellent example of how cross-government initiatives can work effectively. Another example is the target regarding the creation of Welsh speakers which has been adopted by the Childcare Division, where plans are aligned to the WESPs.

Under the two main targets of *Cymraeg 2050* (reach a million Welsh speakers and double the daily use of the language), various projects support the main tenets of *Cymraeg 2050*, supported by robust data from the Annual Population Survey, the Language Use Survey, as well as the census, as well as the PLASC and LLWR data to track the numbers of new speakers through the education system. Funding decisions, as noted above, support the three top level aims: to create new speakers, increase language use, and fund the socio-economic, corpus and IT infrastructure, as well as support the legislative programme.

Inevitably, difficult decisions have to be made to ensure that the available budget is spent in the most effective way possible given the current context, but all decisions are driven by the vision in *Cymraeg 2050* as evidenced.

I trust that you will find these responses helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of loops and a horizontal line at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Economy and Welsh Language Roundtable recommendations / actions – March 2021

1. *Foundational Economy*

Action Point 1: Adapt the Arfor programme interventions in line with the findings of the evaluation and mainstream them to relevant economic programmes.

Action Point 2: Ensure that the evaluation of projects funded by the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund includes consideration of the impact on the Welsh language.

2. *Social Enterprises*

Action Point 3: Create new jobs in the community by developing new social enterprises modelling the work of Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog and Partneriaeth Ogwen etc.

Action Point 4: Encourage community-based Welsh language organisations to relocate to support our town centres and sign-post to Town Centre First fund. Support them to create local hubs which will:

- Allow people to work nearer to their homes.
- Allow individuals to work together in their local community.
- Provide a space for those who cannot or do not want to work from home

3. *Outward Migration*

Action Point 5: Invest and enhance work related programmes targeted at young people to stay or return to the area (Llwybro, Mônallu, Apprentis, Llwyddo'n Lleol and the similar to Propser project in Ireland).

Action Point 6: Request local authorities, where the percentage of Welsh speakers is more than 30%, to roll out the Careers Wales alumni toolkit within Welsh-medium schools to keep in touch with former pupils and support them by informing them of local job opportunities and possible career paths.

4. *Job Opportunities*

Action Point 7: Encourage young people to use the Personal Learning Accounts to study flexible, part-time courses around their existing work responsibilities to gain the necessary skills and qualifications to maximise their job and income potential.

Action Point 8: Create a youth employment programme for rural Wales in cooperation with Regional Skills Partnerships and local employers to address skill shortages and create intelligent workforce planning.

Action Point 9: Circular economy – create job opportunities by using local products and resources, e.g. a wool processing pilot project in Blaenau Ffestiniog use local sourced wool as insulation and fertiliser products creating a foundation for jobs and local business.

Action Point 10: We will develop a pilot project based in a rural area which will incentivise students who have left Wales to return to help teach Welsh in schools for

the final week of school term in the hope that they will be attracted to become teachers in Welsh-medium schools. We will promote the part time online M.A. teaching course to encourage more people to become teachers who work through the medium of Welsh.

Action Point 11: Support the Urdd to create an infrastructure that will create 300 apprenticeships placements over three years.

5. *Mainstreaming the Welsh Language*

Action Point 12: We will mainstream the Welsh language into all economy and employability programmes ensuring that Welsh language impact assessments are undertaken before a policy or programme is implemented. There will be an expectation that performance indicators and targets are set and that progress is monitored on a regular basis.

Action Point 13: Undertake a review of the Welsh Government standard grant award conditions regarding the Welsh language, to ensure that funded organisations can contribute to the aims of *Cymraeg 2050*.

Action Point 14: To support the delivery of the Economic Contract, we will assist WG relationship managers to better reflect the Welsh language in economic interventions.

6. *Procurement*

Action Point 15: Continue to work with relevant Public Service Boards to identify the opportunities to redirect public money back into our communities. Understand the current baselines and set realistic but challenging targets to increase local spending power.

7. *Digital*

Action Point 16: We will work with local authorities and community based organisations to ensure our current digital funding programmes help rural communities to receive fast broadband.

Action Point 17: Following the survey findings of the review of the effects of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups, we will work with relevant stakeholders to ensure that community groups have the necessary skills to make the best of their digital capabilities.

8. *Housing*

Action Point 18: We will work with local authorities to build affordable homes and work with local FE colleges to ensure the necessary local skills to build these properties.

Action Point 19: We will consider the recommendations of Dr Simon Brooks' report, *Second homes: Developing new policies in Wales*. We will work with local authorities and housing associations to look at the possibilities to enable local communities to buy properties in sensitive linguistic areas. The aim will be for these properties to be rented as short-term holiday accommodation with the profits being used to develop housing to be rented or support community development incentives for local people.

9. *Transport*

Action Point 20: Implement the specific rural offer interventions in *Llwybr Newydd*, the new transport strategy for Wales.