



# Cymdeithas y Cymod

Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales  
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14/12/2012

Mr. Powell  
Cadeirydd  
Y Pwyllgor Deisebau  
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru  
Bae Caerdydd  
Caerdydd  
CF99 1NA

*Dear Mr Powell*

*Re Petition P04-432*

*Thank you for forwarding a copy of the letter written by Jeff Cuthbert in response to our petition regarding the recruitment of children in schools by the armed forces. We should be grateful if you could ask the Minister to address the following :*

*We agree with Jeff Cuthbert that the provision of impartial and balanced careers information, advice and guidance for young people , even in the armed forces is important. However our petition asks the Welsh Government to urge schools not to allow the recruitment of children by the armed forces. The British Government has made a submission under Article 8, paragraph 1, of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict<sup>2</sup>, which states: “Army recruiting initiatives include presentations in schools by Army careers advisers (ACA), a variety of Army youth team and Army recruiting team activities, attachments and visits to units, school fairs, Combined Cadet Force (CCF), advertising and marketing initiatives, membership of the Army’s Camouflage Club.”*

*The British Government has said clearly that the Armed Forces do go into schools to recruit children and thus has not provided impartial and balanced careers information, advice and guidance for young people. Our petition is in accord with the recommendation by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2008 which stated that the UK state party should: “Reconsider its active policy of recruitment of children into the armed forces...”*

*The fact that the Armed Forces use visits to schools for recruitment purposes is further evidenced by the fact that schools in the most deprived areas were visited 50% more often than those in affluent areas in Wales.*

*May we take this opportunity to thank you again for your time and for coming to meet us on the Senedd steps in Cardiff .*

*In eager anticipation of your response*

*Yours sincerely*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Arfon Rhys'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

*Arfon Rhys*

*Hon.Sec Fellowship of Reconciliation in Wales*