

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

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

Jeremy Miles MS
Minister for Education and Welsh Language
Welsh Government

Dyddiad | Date: 30 June 2022

Pwnc | Subject: Trademark protection for Welsh words

Dear Jeremy,

I am writing to express my concern about the decision by the Intellectual Property Office (IPO) to allow the words 'Welsh cake', 'cariad' and 'hiraeth' to be trademarked in response to an application by a candle making business based in Bridgend.

These words are commonplace in the Welsh language and widely used in Wales by both English and Welsh speakers. I am surprised the IPO has agreed this application given how unlikely it is that they would make a similar decision for comparably commonplace words in the English language.

I understand that the Welsh Language Commissioner's office is looking at what action can be taken to revoke this application. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you plan to contact the IPO with regards to this decision.

The words 'cariad' and 'hiraeth' do not belong to anyone and I am concerned that the actions of the IPO in this instance may inadvertently equate to an endorsement of the commercial exploitation of evocative Welsh words which obviously resonate with speakers of both languages in Wales.

I have written to the Welsh Language Commissioner in similar terms.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

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

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