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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: MA/JMEWL/3596/22

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and
International Relations Committee

15 December 2022

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 8 November on the scrutiny of the Welsh Government's 2023-24 budget which was published on 13 December.

The enclosed paper provides detail on Welsh Language plans set out in draft budget together with further information on specific areas requested by the Committee.

I look forward to providing an update to the Committee at our oral evidence session on 18 January 2023.

Yours sincerely,

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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.

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

Date: 18 January 2023 (11.10-12.10)

Title: Evidence paper on Draft Budget 2023-24 – Welsh Language budgets within the Education and Welsh Language Main Expenditure Group

This paper provides information to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee on budget allocations relevant to the Welsh Language in the Education and Welsh Language Main Expenditure Group (MEG) proposals outlined in the draft Budget 2023-24, published on 13 December 2022. It also provides an update on specific areas of interest to the Committee.

1. Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

1.1 When we published our 2022 Welsh Spending Review, we set out ambitious plans for increasing the number of Welsh speakers and doubling daily use of the language. Indicative budgets set last year reflected an increase to Welsh Language budgets ¹of £5.8m (15.4%) in 2022-23, with further increases of £3m (6.9%) in 2023-24 and £3.5m (7.5%) in 2024-25. There is no doubt that this has been a challenging budget, the most challenging since devolution. However, this budget maintains and builds on planned increases for the Welsh Language, as reflected in tables 1 and 2 below.

1.2 In draft Budget 2023-24, the total Welsh Language budget within the Education and Welsh Language MEG increases by £0.199m in 2023-24 to **£46.755m** (£46.705m resource and £0.05m capital). By 2024-25 the total indicative Welsh Language budget stands at **£50.207m** (£50.157m resource and £0.05m capital).

TABLE 1: Resource Budget – Total Welsh Language								
Action	BEL	£000s						
		2022-23 Final Budget March 2022	2023-24 Indicative Final Budget March 2022	2023-24 changes	2023-24 Draft Budget December 2022	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget March 2022	2024-25 changes	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2022
Welsh in Education	Welsh in Education	17,775	20,775	-	20,775	24,275	-	24,275
Total Welsh in Education		17,775	20,775	0	20,775	24,275	0	24,275
Welsh Language	Welsh Language	22,404	22,404	-	22,404	22,404	-	22,404
	Welsh Language Commissioner	3,207	3,207	150	3,357	3,207	150	3,357
	Welsh Language Commissioner - Non Cash	120	120	49	169	120	1	121
Total Welsh Language		25,731	25,731	199	25,930	25,731	151	25,882
Total Welsh Language Resource		43,506	46,506	199	46,705	50,006	151	50,157

¹ Budgets within the Welsh in Education, Welsh Language and Welsh Language Commissioner Budget Expenditure Lines (BELs) only.

TABLE 2: Capital Budget [2]– Total Welsh Language								
Action	BEL	£000s						
		2022-23 Final Budget March 2022	2023-24 Indicative Final Budget March 2022	2023-24 changes	2023-24 Draft Budget December 2022	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget March 2022	2024-25 changes	2024-25 Draft Budget December 2022
Welsh Language	Welsh Language Commissioner	50	50	-	50	50	-	50
Total Welsh Language		50	50	-	50	50	-	50
Total Welsh Language Capital		50	50	-	50	50	-	50

- 1.3 As requested by the Committee, a detailed breakdown of 2023-24 draft budget allocations (as relevant to the Welsh Language), final outturn for 2021-22, together with forecast outturn for 2022-23, is attached at **Annex A**. This confirms the final outturn for Welsh Language budgets in 2021-22 was £40.779m (£40.533m resource and £0.246m capital) and the forecast outturn (as at period 7) for 2022-23 is £43.979m (£43.834m resource and £0.145m capital).
- 1.4 It is important to note that the aim is to mainstream *Cymraeg 2050* into all Welsh Government portfolio areas and there is already expenditure on the language embedded in delivery within many other ministerial portfolios. However further detail is provided below on the specific Budget Expenditure Lines (BELs) within the Education and Welsh Language MEG that directly support delivery of the Welsh Language portfolio.

Welsh Language BEL

- 1.5 The purpose of the Welsh language BEL is to support the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* in relation to increasing the use of Welsh and securing the right infrastructure. Funding within the Welsh Language BEL is maintained at **£22.404m** per annum in 2023-24, following the increases actioned in last year's budget.
- 1.6 Additional funding of **£1.2m** was allocated to the Urdd in 2022-23 as continued support for the rebuilding of their services as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. The funding has been baselined into 2023-24. It takes total funding for the Urdd to over £2.2m per annum. Detail on this funding is set out under section 3.1.
- 1.7 A further £0.3m per annum was allocated to the National Eisteddfod in 2022-23 to support the organisation to continue to recover following the financial challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. This funding has also been baselined into 2023-24, with funding for the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol planned to increase to **£1m** in 2023-24. This funding will enable the Eisteddfod to continue with their current activities, and to ensure that the Eisteddfod has the appropriate staffing levels to plan and stage the Eisteddfodau in Llŷn and Eifionydd in 2023 and Rhondda Cynon Taf in 2024. Funding will also continue to be used to build on the success of AmGen to support a more blended approach, which includes

² A further £45m invested over three years (2022-23 to 2024-25) within the Education Infrastructure BEL to support the Welsh Medium Capital Grant.

further investment in digital interaction in parallel with the traditional element of the Eisteddfod. This provides a unique opportunity to showcase and further promote our culture, heritage and Welsh language to a wider audience.

- 1.8 The remaining budget has been maintained for 2023-24 and 2024-25 to support partnership activities including:
- Cymraeg i Blant (Cymraeg for Kids) – to support parents, prospective parents and other family members in using Welsh at home, transmit Welsh to their children, and to support children’s linguistic development in a social and educational context (see paragraphs 2.13-2.14);
 - delivering Welsh language training through the National Centre for Learning Welsh (see section 3.1);
 - Siarter Iaith which supports and promotes the informal use of Welsh amongst school-age children (see paragraphs 2.19-2.21);
 - delivering the Welsh Language Technology Action Plan;
 - increasing the use of Welsh, through grants to a number of key partners including: the network of Mentrau Iaith including the network of Papurau Bro (community newspapers); Merched y Wawr; Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru; Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru; and the Young Farmers Clubs;
 - supporting Ysgol Gymraeg Llundain school to provide an important opportunity to promote the Welsh language in London;
 - the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan (see paragraph 2.17);
 - Bangor University’s ARFer project, to increase interpersonal, communication and confidence in the use of Welsh in the workplace; and
 - research, evaluation and marketing in respect of the strategy.

Welsh Language Commissioner BEL

- 1.9 This budget (resource of £3.526m and capital £0.50m) supports the Welsh Language Commissioner, with further detail on the Commissioner’s budget provided in section 3.2.

Welsh in Education BEL

- 1.10 As part of the draft budget published in December 2021, the Welsh in Education budget increased by £4.3m in 2022-23 to **£17.775m**, with further increases of £3m in 2023-24 and £3.5m in 2024-25, to **£20.775m** and **£24.275m** respectively. Funding in this BEL is being maintained in this budget.
- 1.11 As part of our Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru, we will be investing an additional £8m by 2024-25 (£1.5m in 2022-23, with further increases of £3m in 2023-24 and £3.5m in 2024-25), to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh. Further detail is included in section 3.1.
- 1.12 Funding of £2.2m per annum continues to expand Welsh immersion provision. Further detail is set out in section 3.1.
- 1.13 Following an increase in funding from 2022-23, we will continue to provide £0.6m per annum to support the e-sgol programme (see section 3.1).

1.14 The Welsh in Education BEL also supports actions related to Welsh-medium and Welsh language education within *Cymraeg 2050*, including:

- funding for Mudiad Meithrin to increase Welsh-medium childcare provision as a pathway into Welsh-medium education (see paragraphs 2.24-2.26);
- the implementation of the new 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) in line with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020, which came into force on 1 December 2020 (see paragraphs 2.29-2.30); and
- commissioning of teaching and learning resources (see section 3.1).

2. Other Information

Information on how the delivery of the Welsh Language portfolio and associated outcomes are monitored and evaluated to demonstrate value for money.

2.1 In terms of ensuring value for money, clarity over how we use our resources effectively is central to delivering the priorities set out in the Programme for Government and the Co-operation Agreement. We have well-established processes in place to ensure that resources are used effectively for the purposes intended.

2.2 Progress against the [Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021 to 2026](#) is monitored annually through a process which includes the publication of an annual [Action Plan](#) at the beginning of the financial year, followed by an Annual Report at the year end to report back on the actions detailed in the Action Plan. Regular reviews to monitor expenditure and outcomes are undertaken to ensure that any available resources are reprioritised to deliver the strategy.

2.3 The Welsh Language Partnership Council plays a role in advising on progress towards the 2050 target and the efficacy of our programmes and interventions. Sub-groups work alongside the Partnership Council and undertake more detailed work and scrutiny for example in the field of equality. The Cymraeg 2050 Programme Board within the Welsh Government is tasked with assessing risks and identifying steps to mitigate them and mainstreams the strategy in each of the Government's policy areas.

2.4 In terms of research and evaluation, we have an annual Evidence Plan in place that identifies gaps in the evidence on the Welsh language and sets out a programme of analytical work to address these needs.

2.5 We are currently undertaking a review of the Grant Scheme to Promote and Facilitate the Use of the Welsh Language. The aim of the review is to assess how the current Scheme has been designed and implemented, and inform our planning of a future funding model to support the future use of the Welsh language.

2.6 In November 2022 we published a [Research and Evaluation Framework for Cymraeg 2050](#). It provides guidance on collecting evidence and data, assessing progress, and evaluating the impact of the strategy as it continues to be

implemented. This Framework will provide a basis for the Welsh Government's programme of research and evaluation in relation to the strategy over the coming years.

- 2.7 We have continued to use the findings of a research study we published in 2017: [Welsh Language Transmission and Use in Families](#) to implement our [policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families](#), which we published in January 2021. The Policy provides a basis for a ten-year programme of work. It aims to enable those families where there is already an ability to use Welsh to use whatever Welsh they have with their children. One of the main steps we've undertaken in implementing the policy has been to analyse work with families in non-Welsh language-related fields which uses the behavioural sciences so that we look at what lessons we can learn from this and develop interventions for our language based on these.
- 2.8 We've continued to undertake work on what our target audiences think about our language. We are increasing the amount of behaviourally-scientific work we undertake to increase the use of Welsh and understanding language behaviours and attitudes towards Welsh is one part of this. We have developed a narrative / verbal strategy to ensure that we're engaging with the right audiences and speaking with them in an engaging way. We've continued to work with many of our partners on this 'one voice' approach to promote the Welsh language, thereby reducing duplication of work.
- 2.9 Furthermore, our target of increasing Welsh language early years provision by 150 nursery groups by 2028 has the potential to reduce spend on promotion among older age groups, as they help individuals establish robust language practices at an early age. In this respect, Cylchoedd Meithrin contribute to nurturing the conditions which create new Welsh speakers by immersing children in the language and its culture, and by helping to feed Welsh-medium schools. This spend on the early years prepares the ground for further interventions in the shape of, for instance, the Siarter Iaith (which has the aim of encouraging informal Welsh language use among school children from an early age).
- 2.10 Our [Welsh Language Technology Action Plan](#) involves ensuring Welsh language digital components are created and maintained so that they can be used and reused under a suitably permissive licence by all. The spread of Welsh language technology is also essential for the normalisation of the Welsh language and enabling people to use it in their day to day lives. We launched the Plan on 23 October 2018. One of the main recent developments under the Plan was the result of our collaboration with Microsoft to design a simultaneous human language interpretation facility for Microsoft Teams scheduled meetings which is now available at no extra charge for those who have a Teams licence. This will enable us to use more Cymraeg in more meetings and contribute directly to our target of doubling the daily use of our language.
- 2.11 We are committed to using the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 to improve how we make decisions about the social, economic, environmental and cultural well-being of Wales. Our goal is to ensure we reflect

the sustainable development principle and our spending plans aim to achieve a balance between short and long-term priorities.

Information on allocations (and their location) in your portfolio to support Cymraeg 2050 Welsh language strategy, in particular, allocations to achieve the 'milestones' as set out in the Work Programme 2021-2026

2.12 Since launching *Cymraeg 2050* in 2017, we have been working towards a series of milestones to achieve our targets of a million Welsh speakers and doubling daily use of Welsh by 2050. We follow a trajectory that was developed based on the 2011 Census. The world has changed dramatically since 2017 and we have committed from the outset to pause once we had the 2021 Census results in order to take stock and review our work plans and the trajectory to reach a million Welsh speakers as necessary. We are now considering the Census data alongside other sources of information for example the Annual Population Survey in order to ensure that we remain on track with our aim of doubling the daily use of our language and reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050. Set out below is our progress against the high level milestones.

Milestone: a small increase in language transmission rates in families by the 2021 Census, continuing the trend seen between 2001 and 2011

2.13 To support this aim, we will continue to invest in the Cymraeg for Kids programme during 2023-24 with funding of £0.73m being maintained. The objectives of the programme are to support parents, prospective parents and other family members in introducing and using Welsh at home and transmitting Welsh to their children, and to support children's linguistic development in a social and educational context. This is achieved through a series of free sessions for parents and their children, a network of officers support families to introduce and use Welsh at home, transmit Welsh to their children, and support children's linguistic, social and educational development. During 2022-2023, the resumption of face-to-face sessions following the pandemic has continued. In addition, the virtual delivery of the programme introduced due to Covid-19 restrictions continues to be an important element of the support.

2.14 Cymraeg for Kids supports our new [*national policy on Welsh language transmission and use in families*](#). Encouraging families to choose Welsh is an important part of *Cymraeg 2050* and this policy outlines how we plan to make sure parents and carers are given the best possible support and encouragement to choose to use Welsh with their children. The Welsh language transmission and use in families programme works in collaboration with Cymraeg i Blant officials to design interventions based on lessons learnt. We've commissioned external specialists in behavioural science, to work in collaboration with us and partners to create and trial interventions and / or to improve existing interventions to support families to transmit the Welsh language to their children. During 2023-24 we will continue this work and funding of £0.1m has been maintained to trial pilot interventions in this field. A comprehensive intervention evaluation report will be produced at the end of the project in March 2024.

Milestone: Increasing language use

- 2.15 As I often repeat, *Cymraeg 2050* is about much more than increasing the number of Welsh speakers. It's also about empowering speakers to use their Welsh with the aim of doubling the daily use of Cymraeg by 2050. With this important aim in mind, all of the interventions in my portfolio, and therefore all corresponding budget allocations, ultimately have the aim of increasing the use of the language, and are evaluated and monitored to ensure that they are fit for this purpose. This is true of both the Welsh Language and Welsh Language Commissioner BELs. Under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Welsh Government and the Welsh Language Commissioner, as well as regulating the standards, the Commissioner has the role of increasing use of the language.
- 2.16 While Covid-19 has dramatically changed the world around us, it is encouraging to see how organisations have positively responded to the challenges. It was particularly encouraging to see both the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd National Eisteddfod returning to their traditional format with many new and innovative attributes this year. The Young Farmers, Merched y Wawr and the network of mentrau iaith continued their progress in developing more face to face activities. In particular, the mentrau iaith have updated their community language profiles and have revised their annual workplans to reflect the challenges facing their communities. The mentrau iaith, in particular, have been directed to emphasise more on community engagement and empowerment. This all shows the important work our partners have been doing, driving Welsh language policy and delivering *Cymraeg 2050*'s aims during this difficult time.
- 2.17 In October 2022, the [Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan](#) (WLCHP) was published. The plan includes numerous economic, housing and community development interventions to support Welsh speaking communities that have high levels of second homes. Supporting the Welsh language as a thriving community language is central to the plan. The aim of the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan is to empower communities to take responsibility for the long term sustainability of the Welsh language. The plan aims to help and support communities to fulfil their aspirations. A total of £0.465m has been allocated for the WLCHP for 2022-23 and we anticipate funding will be at a similar level for 2023-24. On a related matter, in August 2022, we launched the Commission for Welsh-speaking communities, who is currently holding a call for evidence. The Commission will initially concentrate on the future of Welsh as a community language in Welsh-speaking communities.
- 2.18 Activities funded from the Welsh in Education BEL include the development of Welsh-medium and bilingual early years provision, the development and implementation of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs), support for FE colleges and training to enable tutors and assessors to teach and train learners bilingually, support the development of Welsh-medium HE provision and lead on post-16 development. Other activities include the development of teaching and learning resources to support the teaching of Welsh and other subjects through the medium of Welsh, as well as bilingual resources to support the new curriculum. All of these activities have an impact on language use.

2.19 The Siarter Iaith supports and promotes the informal use of Welsh amongst school-age young people with the aim of creating bilingual citizens of the future, who will:

- be instinctive, natural, comfortable, confident Welsh speakers;
- want to use the Welsh language of their own volition;
- speak Welsh with each other whether they come from Welsh speaking homes or not;
- be confident to use their Welsh and have a positive attitude towards it; and
- be assertive about their Welshness and language use.

2.20 There are four projects within the Siarter Iaith:

- Siarter Iaith and Siarter Iaith Uwchradd operates Welsh-medium primary and secondary schools respectively;
- *Cymraeg Campus* operates in English medium primary schools; and
- *Cymraeg Bob Dydd* operates in English medium secondary schools.

2.21 We will allocate £0.713m to the programme for 2023-24. We provide £0.138m to the Urdd to deliver *Cymraeg Bob Dydd* and £518,770 is allocated to the regional consortia (or in the case of mid and West Wales to the relevant local authorities) to work with schools to deliver the programme. The remainder funds national activities such as the publication of the *Seren a Sbarc* books and other resources. This project is a key part of our work to increase language use and will be maintained in 2023-24.

2.22 It's very difficult to measure language use. One way is by conducting language use surveys. Work began on a new Welsh language use survey in July 2019, and was due to continue until the end of March 2021. However, due to Covid-19, the survey ended earlier than planned, during March 2020. The Welsh language use surveys are the official source for reporting progress against one of the national indicators set out in the Well-being of Future Generations Act (Wales) 2015. According to the Welsh Language Use Survey 2019-20³, 10% of people aged three or older spoke Welsh daily and could speak more than just a few words (it should be noted that Welsh speakers who can only speak a few words are not included here, no matter how often they speak the language). This is the same percentage as in the Welsh Language Use Survey 2013-15. However, when looking specifically at Welsh speakers aged three or older in Wales, over half (56%) spoke the language daily (regardless of their levels of fluency) compared with 53% in the Welsh Language Use Survey 2013-15. There was also a small increase in those who considered themselves fluent in Welsh (up to 48% from 47%) and two thirds of Welsh speakers agree (strongly or tend to agree) that speaking Welsh is an important part of who they are.

2.23 *Cymraeg 2050* is a cross-cutting policy, supported not just through the Welsh Language and Welsh in Education BELs. For example, the Sabbatical Scheme and CYDAG are supported by the Teacher Development and Support BEL within the Education and Welsh Language MEG. An additional £1m was also allocated to the Curriculum Reform BEL from 2021-22 for bilingual resources to support

³ [Social use of the Welsh language: July 2019 to March 2020 | GOV.WALES](#)

effective implementation of the new Curriculum for Wales. Further detail on these areas are set out below.

Milestone: Aim to support the expansion of Welsh language early years by 60 new groups by 2026

- 2.24 Annual funding of £3.031m to Mudiad Meithrin has enabled it to support its membership of Cylchoedd Meithrin and Cylchoedd Ti a Fi to strengthen and expand its services.
- 2.25 During 2023-24, we will continue the support for Mudiad Meirthin to expand and strengthen this provision. Funding will also continue to enable Mudiad Meithrin to run the Sefydлу a Symud / Set up and Succeed (SAS) programme which focuses solely on establishing new Welsh-medium early years provision in areas of Wales where there is a current lack of such services as an access point to Welsh-medium education.
- 2.26 Through this work, 43 new groups were established over the first 3 years of the programme up to 2021. The target of establishing a further 60 groups during the current Senedd term is well underway with 12 groups having opened during 2021-22 and a further 12 being developed for 2022-23. The work to develop staff and volunteers at its member settings has also continued, and has this year included sessions tailored to respond to the challenges the early years sector has faced during this year. This budget will be maintained in 2023-24 and Mudiad Meithrin will continue to build early years capacity to provide a path into Welsh-medium education.
- 2.27 Closely allied to the programme of expanding provision is the Programme for Government and Co-operation Agreement commitment to deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all 2 year olds, with a particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh-medium provision. It is expected that the SAS programme and the expansion of Flying Start will work closely and contribute to each other's targets.

Milestone: Increase the percentage of year 1 learners taught in Welsh from 23% (2020 to 2021) to 26% in 2026.

- 2.28 One of the key aims of *Cymraeg 2050* is to increase the number of learners studying through the medium of Welsh. The most recent PLASC data (2022), published at the end of August shows a small percentage increase in Year 1 learners studying through the medium of Welsh, rising from 23.4% in 2020/21 to 23.9% in 2021/22. In the *Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26*, we have committed to increase the percentage of year 1 learners taught in Welsh to 26% by 2026. Work in this policy areas includes a number of different streams.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs)

- 2.29 We will continue to allocate funding of £0.1m from the Welsh in Education BEL to support work on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs). All WESPs have been approved and have been operational since September 2022. Our

efforts in 2023-24 will concentrate on supporting local authorities to implement their new 10-year WESPs. This will include:

- providing advice and guidance around communication and promotion of Welsh-medium education;
- procurement of Welsh language and education consultants to advise local authorities on aspects of WESP implementation, such as progression from Welsh-medium primary schools and work around school categorisation;
- on-going support in implementing the new WESPs; and
- implementation of the new arrangements relating to school categorisation according to the provision of Welsh.

2.30 Local authorities will continue to use funding from other sources to implement their WESPs, for example through the Sustainable Communities for Learning capital programme, Early Years and Childcare capital grant, and the Revenue Support Grant (RSG). Specific Welsh language funding such as the Welsh-medium Capital grant and Late Immersion Grant will continue to support and deliver activities directly supporting the implementation of WESPs.

Late immersion provision

2.31 Late immersion continues to play an important part in our work to increase the percentage of learners who attend Welsh-medium education. The *Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26*, and the Programme for Government, include our commitment to expand the Late Immersion Programme to ensure that every newcomer to the language has access to a Welsh-medium education when they need it and wherever they are on their learning journey. Further detail on this funding is set out under section 3.1.

Welsh Language Education Bill

2.32 We've made a commitment to introduce a Welsh Education Bill during the term of this Senedd. The purpose of the Bill is to strengthen and increase our Welsh language education provision to meet the challenges set out in *Cymraeg 2050*. There is no agreed timetable for this work, therefore the costs associated with a White Paper consultation may arise during the 2023-24 financial year with costs to be met from existing budgets.

Milestone: support growth in the number of teachers in Wales who can teach Welsh or teach through the medium of Welsh by 2031 as follows.

2.33 In May 2022, the [Welsh in Education Workforce Plan](#) was published with a commitment to increase the funding allocated to support implementation of our actions to increase the number of Welsh-medium teachers and support all teachers to develop their Welsh language skills. The latest data in relation to progress against this target was published in the [Cymraeg 2050 Annual Report for 2021-22](#).

- 2.34 Funding is available within the Teacher Development and Support BEL to take this work forward. A total of £1.845m was allocated in 2022-23 (an increase of £1m) with further increases of £0.5m in 2023-24 and £2m in 2024-25.
- 2.35 The total funding available in 2023-24 is £8.720m of which £6.1m is allocated to professional learning (see below). The remainder of the funding will be prioritised to support the aims of the plan and will be mainly targeted at increasing the number of Welsh-medium teachers.
- 2.36 The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol is allocating £0.150m from their grant, which is funded from the Welsh in Education BEL, in 2022-23 to develop two specific projects:
- pilot a financial scholarship and mentoring for undergraduate learners to support them to prepare for ITE through the medium of Welsh; and
 - develop networks to engage with Welsh-speaking graduates studying in England and promote opportunities for them to return to Wales to prepare to teach.
- 2.37 It is hoped that the Coleg will continue to allocate funding from their grant in 2023-24 to continue these projects.
- 2.38 We continue to provide incentives for student teachers from Wales undertaking ITE and have maintained the Iaith Athrawon Yfory incentive of £5,000 for each student who is preparing to teach secondary subjects through the medium of Welsh.
- 2.39 The National Centre for Learning Welsh is leading on a pilot project to incentivise young Welsh speakers to return from universities to help teach Welsh in schools. A pilot project was held in July 2022 where 15 students from Universities across the UK attended a two week course at Cardiff University. They received presentations from education practitioners, received information on how to become Learn Welsh tutors, and had an opportunity to attend Learn Welsh classes and learn basic tutoring skills. A second pilot project will be held in July 2023 which will also include a placement period in a secondary school. It is hoped that this project will attract young people to teaching, and the Learn Welsh sector whilst also helping to increase the use of Welsh in schools.
- 2.40 Professional learning is a key feature of our approach to strengthening Welsh-medium teaching capacity and supporting practitioners to develop their Welsh language skills in accordance with the Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership. We are working with regional consortia and local authorities to ensure that practitioners are identified and supported to engage with professional learning in order to improve the teaching of Welsh in English-medium schools and to support all schools to move along a continuum. Approximately £6.1m will be allocated within the Teacher Development and Support BEL in 2023-24 to this end.
- 2.41 Of this funding, £3.6m is allocated to the Sabbatical Scheme to deliver intensive Welsh language and language teaching methodology professional learning for practitioners. Courses are available on a range of levels for teaching assistants

and teachers. The majority of this budget funds the supply costs related with releasing practitioners from schools to undertake the courses.

2.42 In addition to the Sabbatical Scheme, a total of approximately £2.5m will be allocated to the regional consortia and local authorities in 2023-24 to support the local and regional delivery of Welsh language support for practitioners. There is a slight reduction on this budget this year due to the availability of free Welsh language lessons – see next paragraph.

2.43 Funding allocated to the National Centre for Learning Welsh will also deliver access to free Welsh language lessons to all education practitioners. A new website was launched in July 2022 to provide information to practitioners about the provision available to them via the Sabbatical Scheme and the National Centre for Learning Welsh [Education Workforce | Learn Welsh](#).

3. Specific Areas

3.1 Updates on allocations in 2022-23 budget

Information on the allocation of £1.2 million to the Urdd to assist with rebuilding after the pandemic, and details on the specialist programme that provides Welsh-medium apprenticeships for young people within deprived communities.

3.1.1 As part of last year's budget, an additional £1.2m was allocated to the Urdd in 2022-23, which has been baselined into 2023-24, to provide continued support in the rebuilding of their services as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. It ensured that the Urdd had a network of development officers in place who are employed to support children and young people in communities across Wales.

3.1.2 The Urdd's offering is wide ranging, vibrant and continues to grow. The allocation not only enabled the Urdd to redevelop and rebuild after the pandemic, but to also innovate and build on their successful initiatives held during Covid-19; such as new digital ways of engaging with young people through events such as Eisteddfod-T and international partnerships.

3.1.3 In the first quarter of 2022-23, the Urdd held their first in person Urdd National Eisteddfod since the COVID-19 pandemic. Their event was a huge success and drew record numbers of attendees. In addition to the £1.2m, in line with our Programme for Government commitment, we were delighted to support the Urdd with additional funding of £0.5m (2021-22) to offer the festival for free for attendees to celebrate its centenary year.

3.1.4 A key part of the funding enabled the Urdd to provide a specialist programme that provides Welsh-medium apprenticeships for young people within our most deprived communities. Nurturing the workforce of the future and establishing an impactful structure of recruiting, training and retaining Welsh-medium staff is essential if opportunities for children and young people to use Welsh are to be increased. The additional funding has enabled the Urdd to establish accredited apprenticeship pathways in Welsh. The funding also ensured that the Urdd could establish a skills Hub which enables learners across Wales to gain the essential

skills through the medium of Welsh. The effective structure and development of the Urdd's Apprenticeship Department through this allocation has enabled the Urdd to attract young people who lacked confidence in their Welsh to receive intensive training through the medium of Welsh after leaving school along with an option to consider a future career through the medium of Welsh. In short, the investment has attracted a cohort of young people who did not choose to engage with the Welsh language after their time at school, to consider a long-term career through the medium of Welsh.

Progress update on the additional £2.2m allocated to expand Welsh language immersion provision across Wales and any supporting data.

- 3.1.5 During 2021-22, we announced an investment of £2.2m to support Welsh learners undertaking late immersion in schools and to support Welsh learners' progression in light of COVID-19. This grant funding was dedicated to expanding Welsh-medium late immersion provisions in schools and centres and each local authority applied for funding of up to £0.1m for expenditure before the end of March 2022. Key funding requests included: additional teaching time to expand current immersion provision or COVID related learner support; pilots for 'pop up' immersion provision; procurement of specialist training in immersion methodologies and resources; scoping projects to establish latecomer provision based on other LA models.
- 3.1.6 This initial investment led to us announcing earlier this year additional revenue funding of £6.6m for the remainder of this Senedd term (£2.2m per annum for 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25) to continue to develop late immersion provision in every local authority area. Each local authority will allocate funding according to their own individual needs. Some continue to support provision that already exists. Whilst others, mostly in South-East Wales, will lead to the establishment of new late immersion provision that will enable more learners to become bilingual speakers. This current funding round is enabling local authorities to keep in post, or appoint from new, over 60 specialised late immersion teachers / classroom assistants into newly established immersion units or centres. It is also supporting the development of innovative digital technologies to support learning, such as Gwynedd's Virtual Reality (VR) digital resource project consisting of a VR village providing opportunities for learners to use their language skills in different contexts. The funding will support an all-Wales roll out over the coming years.
- 3.1.7 In 2022-23, a Welsh-medium Late Immersion Network was established to support local authorities, regional consortia and schools to raise awareness of the different provisions, developments and good practice in place across Wales. This Network will continue during 2023-24.

Information on the increased allocation of £4.3m within the Welsh in Education BEL during 2022-23, specifically, how and where this additional funding has been utilised.

- 3.1.8 The £4.3m allocation is made up of:

- **£2.2m – Late immersion provision**

3.1.9 Details regarding the £2.2m allocation for immersion is outlined above.

- **£1.5m – Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol**

3.1.10 In 2022-23, the core funding of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol stands at £7.013m. This includes funding of £5.046m for the Coleg's higher education programme and £0.684m for its Welsh-medium scholarship scheme. In higher education, £4.184m directly supports Welsh-medium provision across universities and subject areas. Essential support is provided through Coleg branches to lecturers, staff development and publications. In post-16, a total of £1.283m has been allocated to support the Further Education and Apprenticeship Welsh-medium Action Plan, which is providing development grants in priority areas including Health and Social Care, Childcare and Public Services.

3.1.11 Within the core funding, the Coleg provides training and mentoring through Sgiliaith, to enable tutors and assessors to gain confidence in teaching bilingually and support for the apprenticeship sector. Additional grant funding from other areas is provided for digital and other resource development, the ambassador project and support for developing Welsh as a subject and Welsh-medium teachers.

3.1.12 The Programme for Government and our Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru includes a commitment to invest in Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to increase the amount of Welsh-medium delivery in the apprenticeship and further education sector, and the National Centre for Learning Welsh to provide free Welsh language learning for 16 to 25-year-olds and teaching staff. This builds on the existing budget for the Coleg which supports Welsh-medium provision across universities, together with FE colleges and training providers by providing training and mentoring through Sgiliaith, to enable tutors and assessors to gain confidence in teaching bilingually and support for the apprenticeship sector to build teaching capacity. As part of last year's budget, an additional £8m was invested up to 2024-25, with £1.5m allocated for the Coleg in 2022-23, with further increases to support the Coleg and National Centre of £3m in 2023-24 and £3.5m in 2024-25. The Coleg already has a close working relationship with the National Centre for Learning Welsh and further collaboration will strengthen the support to the Welsh language post-16 sector.

3.1.13 Of the £4.5m allocated for 2023-24, £2.825m will be provided to the Coleg and £1.675m to the National Centre.

- **£0.6m – E-sgol**

3.1.14 The e-sgol project was launched in 2018 with the aim of providing equality of opportunity for post-14 and post-16 learners in rural areas of Wales to study courses that would not otherwise be available to them. e-sgol is a blended learning initiative to deliver online teaching and learning opportunities using direct, real-time and interactive learning approaches.

3.1.15 The e-sgol project has been expanding year on year since its launch. During 2021-22, 28 subjects (GCSE, AS and 'A' level) have been offered across 28 schools to over 350 pupils through the e-sgol project.

3.1.16 Welsh Government funding for e-sgol for the current financial year is £0.6m and it will be maintained in 2023-24. The e-sgol project is available to all areas of Wales and participation is voluntary. The increased funding made available from 2022-23 will allow for increased promotion with the aim of ensuring that provision will expand to all consortium areas in Wales from September 2023.

Update on budget allocations from other parts of the Ministers portfolio, including the Teacher Development and Support BEL and the Curriculum and Assessment BEL to support the development of the Welsh language.

Sabbatical Scheme

3.1.17 We propose to continue to support the Sabbatical Scheme from 2022-23 with an approximate budget of £3.6m, to retain the same level of funding as previous years. The budget for the Sabbatical Scheme is drawn from the Teacher Development and Support BEL (see paragraphs 2.41-2.42).

Bilingual resources

3.1.18 Budget provision of £1m is being maintained within the Curriculum and Assessment BEL to continue the development of additional resources and supporting materials for schools and settings linked to the Curriculum for Wales. Alongside this, practitioners are supporting our review of over 5,000 curriculum resources already available on the Hwb platform, which are now populating a new dedicated Curriculum for Wales resources section. As the review progresses, more and more resources will appear in this section so that schools and settings can be assured of their quality and alignment to the new curriculum.

3.1.19 In conjunction, we continue to allocate funding of just over £3m from the Welsh in Education BEL to ensure adequate provision of Welsh-medium and bilingual resources to support the curriculum and its qualifications. In 2022-23 Adnodd, a Welsh Government subsidiary company, was incorporated to provide a strategic oversight to the provision and commissioning of resources. Adnodd will become operational as of 1 April 2023. Grant funding will be allocated to establish Adnodd. A three-year transition plan is being developed with some contracts and grants being funded and managed directly from Welsh Government.

3.1.20 We continue to work with various sectors to fund and commission:

- bilingual resources for curriculum areas such as: health and well-being; Welsh history; Humanities; Expressive arts; and Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities' contributions and history;
- 14-19 general and vocational qualifications textbooks and digital resources;

- Welsh-medium resources to support learners with additional educational needs to include sight loss, dyslexia and BSL;
- reading materials for 3-16 year old learners on culture and the history of Wales;
- resources to support Welsh language oracy and immersion; and
- terminology and dictionary infrastructure projects such as *Y Termiadur Addysg* and *Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru*.

3.2 Welsh Language Commissioner

Allocations and commentary in respect of the budget allocation for the Welsh Language Commissioner in 2023-24.

3.2.1 The Welsh Language Commissioner's revenue allocation for 2023-24 and 2024-25 is £3.357m, which represents a £0.150m uplift from 2022-23. In line with the Commissioner's estimate, a non-cash depreciation budget of £0.169m will be provided in 2023-24, which is an increase of £0.049m on 2022-23, to support depreciation and amortisation costs on capital expenditure. The non-cash budget reduces to £0.121m by 2024-25.

3.2.2 In the budget estimate for 2023-24, the Commissioner's office highlighted the need for additional revenue funding to fund the pay deal for staff and ensure Commissioner's staff continue to fall in line with the terms and conditions of the Welsh Government. The additional revenue funding provided in 2023-24 represents an increase of over 4% increase to support pay uplifts.

3.2.3 There are no changes to the capital budget for the Commissioner, which remains at £0.050m for 2023-24 and 2024-25. We will continue to discuss the capital funding requirements for the Commissioner in 2023-24 to support their investment plans.

3.3 Capital expenditure in relation to the Welsh language

Detailed progress on expanding capacity in Welsh-medium schools, the distribution of the Welsh Medium Capital Grant and progress to date across local authorities in Wales.

3.3.1 This budget is located within the Education Infrastructure BEL of the Education and Welsh Language MEG. Its aim is to increase capacity in Welsh-medium schools, establish new Welsh-medium provision, support late immersion provision as well as support learners of all ages to improve their skills and confidence in Welsh.

3.3.2 The first round of Welsh-medium capital funding during 2018 has supported 46 projects across 20 local authorities, leading to 2,818 additional Welsh-medium childcare and education places. Most of the 46 projects are progressing well, however, the pandemic has had some impact with the completion dates of some projects slightly delayed.

- 3.3.3 A further £30m was announced in March 2021 to support capital projects dedicated to growing the use of the Welsh language in education according to local WESP needs. The funding is a second tranche of investment from the Welsh-medium Capital Grant, established in 2018 to support capital projects dedicated to supporting and growing the use of the Welsh language in education. This is on top of the existing allocation announced for Band B of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme
- 3.3.4 Of the 51 bids submitted, a total of 11 bids were approved across 9 local authority areas with the remaining bids that met the criteria but could not be supported due to limited funds placed on a reserve list. This investment will lead to the creation of an additional 933 places in Welsh-medium education, 285 additional late immersion places, 2 new Welsh-medium primary schools and increased capacity in 10 Welsh-medium schools already established.
- 3.3.5 During October 2022, additional funding of £7.1m was approved to support projects on the Welsh-medium Capital Grant reserve list. The projects that will be progressed within this financial year are included at Annex B.
- 3.3.6 These projects will make a substantial contribution to Welsh-medium education across Wales. On a local level, they will provide a positive boost to the language in numerous counties.

Summary

The budget as relevant to the Welsh Language in the Education and Welsh Language MEG Draft Budget for 2023-24 is presented to the Committee for consideration.

Jeremy Miles MS
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

ANNEX A – WELSH LANGUAGE BUDGETS WITHIN THE EDUCATION AND WELSH LANGUAGE MEG FOR DRAFT BUDGET 2023-24, 2022-23 FORECASTS AND 2021-22 FINAL OUTTURN

Resource budgets

Action	BEL Description	2021-22 Final Outturn	2022-23 Final Budget (Mar 2022)	2022-23 1st Supp Budget (June 2022)	2022-23 Forecast Outturn (Period 7)	2023-24 Indicative Final Budget 2022-23 (Mar 2022)	2023-24 Changes	2023-24 Draft Budget (Dec 2022)	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget 2022-23 (Mar 22)	2024-25 Changes	2024-25 Indicative Draft Budget (Dec 2022)
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Welsh in Education	Welsh in Education	14,856	17,775	17,775	17,611	20,775	0	20,775	24,275	0	24,275
Total Welsh in Education		14,856	17,775	17,775	17,611	20,775	0	20,775	24,275	0	24,275
Welsh Language	Welsh Language	22,428	22,404	22,404	23,058	22,404	0	22,404	22,404	0	22,404
	Welsh Language Commissioner	3,187	3,207	3,113	3,165	3,207	150	3,357	3,207	150	3,357
	Welsh Language Commissioner - Non- Cash	62	120	216	0	120	49	169	120	1	121
Total Welsh Language		25,677	25,731	25,733	26,223	25,731	199	25,930	25,731	151	25,882
EDUCATION - TOTAL RESOURCE BUDGET		40,533	43,506	43,508	43,834	46,506	199	46,705	50,006	151	50,157

Capital budgets

Action	BEL Description	2021-22 Final Outturn	2022-23 Final Budget (Mar 2022)	2022-23 1st Supp Budget (June 2022)	2022-23 Forecast Outturn (Period 7)	2023-24 Indicative Final Budget 2022-23 (Mar 2022)	2023-24 Changes	2023-24 Draft Budget (Dec 2022)	2024-25 Indicative Final Budget 2022-23 (Mar 22)	2024-25 Changes	2024-25 Indicative Draft Budget (Dec 2022)
		£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s	£000s
Welsh Language	Welsh Language Commissioner	246	50	50	145	50	0	50	50	0	50
Total Welsh Language		246	50	50	145	50	0	50	50	0	50
EDUCATION - TOTAL CAPITAL BUDGET		246	50	50	145	50	0	50	50	0	50

ANNEX B – WELSH MEDIUM CAPITAL GRANT ALLOCATIONS – OCTOBER 2021

Local Authority	Project	Capital
Newport	Sports Hall for Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed	£1,468,509
Torfaen	3G Pitch for Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw	£1,650,000
Cardiff	Ysgol Glantaf SRB Unit	£129,202
Cardiff	Ysgol Bro Edern refurbishment	£105,421
Cardiff	Plasmawr demountable unit and refurbishment	£1,148,620
Conwy	Cylch Meithrin Ysgol Bro Aled	£55,644
Anglesey	Ysgol Llanfawr childcare unit	£596,800
Anglesey	Ysgol y Graig childcare unit	£298,031
Neath Port Talbot	Ysgol Trebannws refurbishment	£460,000
Neath Port Talbot	Mynachlog Nedd refurbishment new seedling school	£550,000
Powys	Ysgol Pennant refurbishment and extension	£671,473
		£7,133,700