

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
**Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg**  
**Minister for Education and Welsh Language**



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair of the Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport, and International  
Relations Committee

06 January 2022

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 7 December 2022 asking for more information following my evidence session on 17 November 2022 in your inquiry into the legislative framework that supports Welsh-medium education provision.

You have asked for additional information around the following areas:

**1. Training for Welsh-medium teachers**

- 1.1 What consideration you have given to (...) overcome the challenges posed by recruiting staff to work in Welsh-medium nursery settings
- 1.2 What consideration has been given to encouraging pupils at an earlier stage to follow a Welsh-medium teaching career path

**2. PLASC data on Covid-19 impacts on entry**

- 2.1 PLASC data for this year, and for the past three years.
- 2.2 Confirmation whether or not the PLASC data that is publicly available through StatsWales is also available as a percentage of the number of pupils entering Welsh-medium education at three and seven years olds (foundation stage and key stage 1), as well at secondary school (key stage 3 entry).

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales)

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.

Please find my responses below as requested.

## 1. Training for Welsh-medium teachers

1.1 The Mudiad Meithrin programme mentioned in your letter is run solely by Mudiad Meithrin and not funded by the Welsh Government.

However, we have provided £3.78m of funding over 22-23, 23-24 and 24-25 to support and grow Welsh medium provision and practitioners in Wales via a variety of routes:

- the appointment of Development Officers within each of the five members of the Cwlwm consortium;
- the provision of an additional 100 recruits to undertake Level 3 Welsh-medium childcare qualifications and an additional 50 recruits to undertake Level 5 Welsh Medium childcare qualifications;
- the provision for more [play and after school clubs](#) to train in playworks qualification to support expansion of registered services;
- support for an additional 40 setting through Croesi'r Bont which offers language support for new settings established under the Sefydla a Symud programme and English medium settings looking to introduce or improve Welsh language provision aimed at [improving language skills](#) within the existing workforce;
- support an increase in [Welsh medium childminders](#), focussing on pre-registration training and support;
- support actions to encourage the [registration](#) of unregistered bilingual and Welsh medium settings and encourage bilingual settings to move towards Welsh medium status as an [operational language](#).

We are also working with the National Centre for Learning Wales as part of our ESF<sup>1</sup> funded Progress for Success Programme to develop bespoke Welsh language courses for childcare and playwork practitioners. These specifically target existing practitioners who work within English-medium, Welsh Medium and Bi-lingual settings to give them the confidence to use more Welsh with the children in their settings as part of their day-to-day provision. The National Centre for Learning Welsh are developing two courses at higher levels to ensure that there is a pipeline of learning for childcare and playwork practitioners to continue to develop Welsh language skills and confidence in the sector.

1.2 We are clear in the Welsh in education workforce plan that although targeting graduates and encouraging them to study towards qualified teacher status (QTS) is important, it is often too late and young people have already made decisions

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<sup>1</sup> European Social Fund

on career paths they wish to follow. Therefore, one of the objectives of the plan is to increase the number of learners studying Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh at A level and at undergraduate level to create a sufficient pipeline of future teachers for the Welsh-medium sector.

Local authorities and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol have a key role to play in increasing the number of learners studying Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh at post-16 and undergraduate level. I hope to see the number of learners continuing to study through the medium of Welsh increasing in line with local authority Welsh in Education Strategic Plans targets and as a result of the significant investment in post-16 Welsh-medium provision through the Coleg.

Education Workforce Council is already working closely with schools, learners and undergraduates to promote pathways into teaching, and we have asked them to scope the development of an apprenticeship route or vocational qualifications for learners in post-16 education and training as a pathway into teaching.

Through Welsh Government funding, the Coleg has worked with universities to develop and deliver modules for undergraduates to have experience of being in a classroom and preparing for initial teacher education (ITE). The Coleg is also developing a pilot financial scholarship and mentoring for undergraduates to support them to prepare for ITE through the medium of Welsh, which will include targeting learners studying in England.

The Welsh Government has also funded a pilot 'gap year' project for learners leaving school at 18 to have a year out to gain experience as a teaching assistant before progressing to university.

## **2. PLASC data on Covid-19 impacts on entry**

2.1 PLASC data on the number and percentage of learners taught through the medium of Welsh as a first language is available on [StatsWales](#). This data is from 2011/12 to 2021/22.

2.2 The data includes the number of pupils taught Welsh as a first language; total number of pupils and the percentage of pupils taught Welsh as a first language per local authority and as a Region. This data is available from the age of nursery to Year 13. You can access the relevant data by selecting from the drop-down menu on the tabs – Measure and Year.

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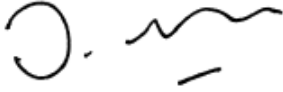
[Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jeremy.Miles@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales)

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This information formed part of the national and local data profile collated and shared by the Welsh Government with local authorities to assist their preparation of their Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. We have committed to updating the data profile on an annual basis.

Yours sincerely,



**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

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