

To: Inquiry participants
Inquiry into the legislative framework that
supports Welsh-Medium Education Provision
By email only

14 December 2022

Call for further evidence on the implications of the Census data for the legislative framework that supports Welsh-Medium Education Provision

Dear colleagues,

At the Committee's meeting on 8 December 2022, it was decided to seek additional evidence on the impact of the recent Census data on the legislative framework that supports Welsh-Medium Education Provision and Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs).

The Committee was bitterly disappointed by the reduction in number of Welsh speakers as outlined in the 2021 Census data published on 6 December 2022. Despite the drop in the number of 5 to 15 year olds who were able to speak Welsh, the percentage of people in this age group who are able to speak Welsh is still higher than any other age group. This shows the key role that education plays in increasing the number of Welsh speakers. The Committee thinks it is important to consider the implications of the Census data for issues discussed in its inquiry.

The Committee is only seeking views related to the Census and its implications for WESPs. Further work on the Census and its implications for Welsh as a community language will be conducted later next year when more data has been published.

As such, I would be grateful if you could provide the Committee with your views on:

- What challenges does the decrease in the number of Welsh speakers pose for local authority delivery of WESPs?
- What challenges lie ahead in the planning and development of Welsh-medium education provision in light of the Census data, and more specifically, the challenge of ensuring pupils in the English-medium sector are fluent as they leave school?



- What funding considerations might be needed going forward to support the full development of the WESPs given the decrease in the number of Welsh speakers?

The Committee is keen to progress and complete this inquiry as soon as is possible. As a result, the timeline for this work will be short. The **deadline for submissions is 12.00 on Monday 16 January 2023**. Unfortunately, any submissions made after this date will be disregarded. In addition, the **maximum word limit for submissions is 500 words**. Due to the short timeframe, I am afraid that any content beyond this word limit will not be considered.

Finally given the time pressures, only those who have provided either oral or written evidence to the inquiry to date are able to participate in this call for further evidence.

I look forward to receiving your views on this important matter.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.