



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1336  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00751/23

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

9 May 2023

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 25 April 2023 regarding petition P-06-1336 - Free Welsh lessons for everyone who wants to learn the language in Wales.

Having an effective and affordable system in place for adults and young people to learn Welsh is vitally important if we want increase both the number of Welsh speakers and the numbers using the language in their everyday lives.

The National Centre for Learning Welsh, established in 2016, is responsible for all aspects of the Learn Welsh sector. It provides strategic leadership for the sector, including curriculum and course development, providing resources and training for practitioners, marketing, and e-learning as well as working with partners to expand opportunities for learners to develop and use their Welsh language skills.

The Centre currently works with 11 providers to offer Welsh lessons for adults and young people across Wales. Details of the courses available can be found via the Centre's website: <https://learnwelsh.cymru/learning/find-a-course/>.

The Centre offers practical support to learners in the form of free print and digital materials to go along with its courses. The Centre has also developed online courses, which provide a wider range of opportunities for learners to develop their Welsh language skills. Further details of the Centre's work can be found at [www.learnwelsh.cymru](http://www.learnwelsh.cymru).

In addition to working with providers, the Centre also has formal partnerships in place with Say Something in Welsh and Duolingo. This provides learners with more choice and flexibility and ensures that different providers' resources are aligned; making it easier to move from one provider to another to suit the level of the learner and how they wish to learn.

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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.

The Centre's Cymraeg Gwaith scheme also continues to go from strength to strength. Cymraeg Gwaith offers a range of flexible training opportunities, with the aim of strengthening Welsh language skills in workplaces across Wales. There were 319 employers involved in the Scheme in 2021-22, with over 6,000 individual employees undertaking a course. The scheme has recently been extended to offer courses tailored for the education workforce and the Health and Social Care and Childcare sectors.

Offering free Learn Welsh courses is not one of the changes set out in Cymraeg 2050. Our continued investment in the Learn Welsh sector means that fees for courses are kept to a minimal, with many learners accessing free tuition or paying discounted fees.

Under the Co-operation Agreement we have committed to offering free Welsh language learning provision to 16 to 25-year-olds and workers in the education sector. Learners on the Cymraeg Gwaith scheme also benefit from free tuition as do Clwb Cwtsh learners, which offers courses for parents/carers and extended family members of young children.

For learners on mainstream Learn Welsh courses, a generous fee policy is in operation across all providers. Since 2019 a single course fee of £90 has been in place for all courses, regardless of location, level or mode of delivery. Operating alongside this is a fee remission policy, which offers discounted fees for learners in priority groups or on priority courses. This includes a 40% discount for individuals in receipt of benefits, and a discount of up to 100% (i.e. offering courses free of charge) for refugees and asylum seekers.

The latest data we have from the Centre shows that around 43% of learners on mainstream courses currently receive a discount on their fees. In addition, complementary activities such as 'Sadwrn Siarad' sessions or revision sessions are often provided free of charge and all learners have access to free taster sessions and self-study resources through the Centre's digital learning platform.

The Centre's Financial Contingency Fund offers financial support for learners. It offers support for a range of course-related costs, including childcare and travel costs, to ensure these are not a barrier to learning.

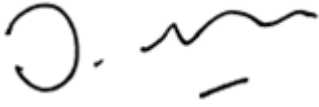
I trust the information above explains steps being taken to ensure that we have an effective and affordable system in place for adults and young people to learn Welsh. I would be more than happy to provide further information to the Committee, or Dona Lewis, the National Centre for Learning Welsh's Chief Executive, may be contacted directly by emailing [dona.lewis@dysgucymraeg.cymru](mailto:dona.lewis@dysgucymraeg.cymru) should you wish to gather further evidence regarding the Centre's work.

You will also be aware that we are currently consulting on proposals for a Welsh Language Education Bill, which includes the following question in relation to Learn Welsh provision:

- Do you agree with the principle that sufficient Welsh language learning provision should be guaranteed, and that suitable structures should be in place to support learners of all ages?

The consultation closes on 16 June and, after analysing the responses, we'll consider how to move forward in this area.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg  
Minister for Education and Welsh Language