

**Jack Sargeant MP**  
**Chair of the Petitions Committee**  
**Welsh Parliament, Cardiff Bay**  
**Cardiff**  
**CF99 1SN**  
[Petitions@senedd.wales](mailto:Petitions@senedd.wales)

Dear Mr Sargeant,

Regarding: Petition P-06-1336 Free Welsh lessons for everyone who wants to learn the language in Wales

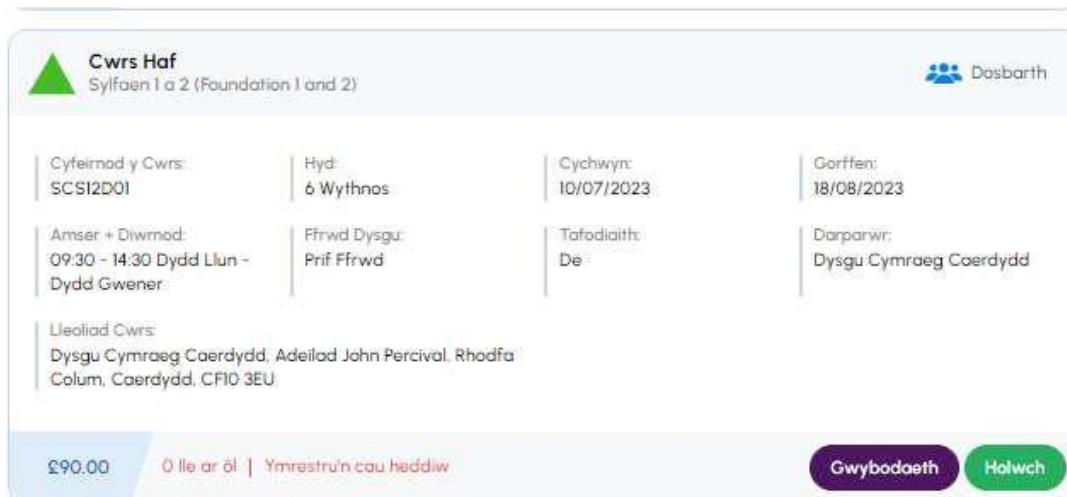
Thank you very much for your recent correspondence regarding the above petition.

Over 15,000 learners a year enjoy following the courses of the National Centre for Learning Welsh. Courses are available for people to learn Welsh in the community and the workplace. Specific programmes are also available for families, young people aged 16-25 and asylum seekers and refugees.

Courses are available in face-to-face and virtual classes. Online self-study resources and courses are also available, as well as a host of digital learning resources.

The Centre has created a digital platform - a kind of 'one-stop shop' - which contains information about all the services for learners: [learnwelsh.cymru](http://learnwelsh.cymru). On the platform, learners can use the 'course finder' to find a course, choosing the learning method, location, time and day, level and intensity that suits them. Recently, the Centre has introduced the 'Learning Wizard', a tool that helps a learner find a suitable course, by asking a series of simple questions.

Over 1,200 Learn Welsh courses are advertised on the platform. Each course is presented in a clear way along with essential information, including cost.



**Cwrs Haf**  
Sylfaen 1 a 2 (Foundation 1 and 2) Dasbarth

|  |                            |                        |                                     |
|--|----------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Cyfeirnod y Cwrs:<br>SCSI2D01  | Hyd:<br>6 Wythnos          | Cychwyn:<br>10/07/2023 | Gorffen:<br>18/08/2023              |
| Amser + Diwrnod:<br>09:30 - 14:30 Dydd Llun -<br>Dydd Gwener   | Ffrwd Dysgu:<br>Prif Ffrwd | Tafodiaith:<br>De      | Darparwr:<br>Dysgu Cymraeg Coerdydd |
| Lleoliad Cwrs:<br>Dysgu Cymraeg Coerdydd, Adeilad John Percival, Rhodfa<br>Colum, Caerdydd, CF10 3EU |                            |                        |                                     |

£90.00 0 lle ar ôl | Ymrestru'n cou heddiw Gwybodaeth Holwch

There is information on the site about the different learning methods, and the learning levels. There is also information about the opportunities to support learning, including: access to Say Something in Welsh and Duolingo resources; the Centre's 'Siarad' scheme, which matches learners with Welsh speakers; and learner support activities such as walks and residential weekends.

In its inspection of the Centre in January 2021, Estyn noted,

'The Centre's officers have developed a digital platform over time to become a convenient and accessible medium for learners to use, for example to search for a course that is suitable for their linguistic level, to enrol and to pay. This supports learners effectively as they select a learning programme when beginning to learn Welsh and when choosing a progression route.'

The Centre was asked to draw up a case study for Estyn about the national digital platform.

Since 2019, due to the introduction of the Welsh Learning Fees and Discounts Policy, the cost of courses across Wales has been made consistent. The fee for each course is £90, and there are a series of discounts, including a discount for pensioners, students and adults on benefits. The policy is reviewed annually.

Current learners can take advantage of the Early Bird offer every year, when moving on to their new courses in September - courses will be available for £45 instead of £90.

There is a special offer on [new beginners courses in September](#) – these courses are also available for £45 instead of £90.

The following audiences are now able to enjoy a 100% discount on the courses, and therefore receive them for free:

- Asylum seekers
- Learners aged 18-25
- Education workforce
- Any adult attending a taster course for learners in the workforce

There is information about the Centre's [financial fund](#) available on [learnwelsh.cymru](http://learnwelsh.cymru). This is a fund that provides financial support to learners towards travel costs, childcare costs, resources etc. Around 35 learners have taken advantage of the fund in the last year.

Every year, the Centre conducts a 'Have your say' questionnaire with its learners, to ensure that we hear the voice of our learners when planning our services. This year, over 4,500 have responded to the questionnaire. In the questionnaire, there is a question on the ease of finding information and registering for Learn Welsh courses, and we are pleased to note that 91% answered positively.

99% said they enjoyed learning Welsh with us, and 93% described the learning experience as good or very good.

I hope the information above answers your question - I would be happy to provide more information if needed.

Yours sincerely



**Donna Lewis**  
Chief Executive