



Ein cyf/Our ref MB/0910/13

David Melding AM
Chair - Constitutional & Legislative Affairs Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

25 February 2013

Dear David,

CLA200 - the Welsh Language Schemes (Public Bodies) Order 2012 and the implementation of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011

Thank you for your letter of 24 January on behalf of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee regarding the timetable for making Welsh language standards.

I have today issued a Written Statement to Assembly Members which explains my decision with regard to the Welsh Language Commissioner's proposals for Welsh language standards. That Statement explains that I have informed the Welsh Language Commissioner that I am unable to support the standards or methodology set out in her report. I have reached this decision for a number of reasons, as explained in the Written Statement and in my letter to the Commissioner, which was published with my Written Statement.

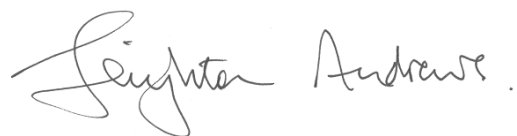
I propose to build on the Commissioner's consultation to develop a set of standards that will meet the policy aims reflected in the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, and the commitments given to the National Assembly for Wales, to achieve linguistic rights for citizens. I will liaise closely with the Commissioner as I do so.

The steps I will need to take to develop the standards will include:

- developing a revised set of standards for consultation;
- undertaking a comprehensive consultation with the public and the organisations to be affected by the standards;
- after taking account of the results of the consultation, preparing regulations making standards, along with regulations making those standards specifically applicable to persons, to be approved by the Assembly; and
- preparing a regulatory impact assessment to present to the Assembly alongside the regulations.

I estimate that we can make the regulations making standards, alongside the regulations making standards specifically applicable to persons, by the end of 2014.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leighton Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills