

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

**Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language**



Eich cyf/Your ref P-06-1410
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/00573/24

**Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government**

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair - Petitions Committee

15 April 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 18 March regarding a petition to stop using the name 'Anglesey' and exclusively use the name 'Ynys Môn' or shorten to 'Môn'.

Safeguarding Welsh place names is an important part of the Welsh Government's work, with both our [Programme for Government 2021-26](#) and [Cooperation Agreement](#) with Plaid Cymru including specific commitments to that end. Thus far, our focus has been on the wealth of names we have for topographical features, land and property, including farms and housing. Many of these names are historic in nature.

Many place names in Wales – including the names of villages, towns, cities and counties – have developed over hundreds, if not thousands, of years, and though the majority of them have their origins in the Welsh language, a number also have their roots in English, French, Latin, Irish or Norse. The name Anglesey itself possibly derives from Old Norse.

As I've previously stated, in general I would support the principle promoted by the Welsh Language Commissioner in her [Guidelines for Standardising Place-names in Wales](#), namely that we should aim for one spelling if the difference between the Welsh form and the English form consists of only one or two letters.

The Senedd Cymru (Members and Elections) Bill, currently being scrutinised by the Senedd, makes provision regarding the names of future Senedd constituencies. The Bill creates a presumption that the Democracy and Boundary Commission Cymru (who will be responsible for reviewing Senedd constituencies rather than the Welsh Government) will seek to give a single name for constituencies for use in Welsh and English, and will only propose different names if there are specific reasons why a single name would be considered unacceptable. The effect of the provisions in practice will mean that any single name must be acceptable for use in Welsh. The Bill also makes provision relating to consulting with the Welsh Language Commissioner to ensure that the names of Senedd constituencies are accurate and reflect certain conventions. The Democracy and Boundary Commission's proposals, including proposed constituency boundaries and their names, will be subject to public consultation.

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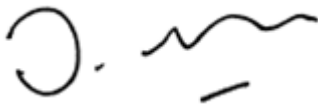
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

There's no doubt that the way public organisations are named can be influential. One need only look at how decisions by Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog National Parks to use only their Welsh names has encouraged their use by other organisations and individuals and increased awareness of the language. It is important to note, however, that the National Parks are independent organisations, which have conducted exercises to get to know what local people think about their suggestions for renaming.

Several local authorities in Wales, of course, have names which are appropriate for use in both languages. However at present, both Ynys Môn and Isle of Anglesey are used by the relevant County Council. I believe that engagement and open public discussion would be important in relation to any decisions of the kind suggested by this petition, as it goes to the heart of local democracy and how people see themselves.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a circular mark followed by a wavy line and a short horizontal stroke.

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