

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations
Committee**

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Jeremy Miles MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language

Lynne Neagle MS

Cabinet Secretary for Education

Welsh Government

30 April 2024

Development of post-16 Welsh language provision

Dear Jeremy and Lynne,

I would like to congratulate you both on your recent Welsh Government Cabinet appointments. Both the Committee and I look forward to working with you in your new roles. As you might be aware, on 17 April 2024, the Committee held a one-day inquiry into the development of post-16 Welsh language provision. We agreed to undertake this work following the decision by the Welsh Government to re-prioritise funding as part of the 2024-25 Budget.

During that one-day inquiry, we considered items of written evidence and spoke to representatives from the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, Colleges Wales, the National Training Federation for Wales, and the National Centre for Learning Welsh. It was clear to us from the evidence that there are a number of challenges and opportunities inherent in this important aspect of our collective journey towards the Cymraeg 2050 target.

In response to the changes in funding of post-16 Welsh language provision that were made during the 2024-25 Draft Budget, we recommended that:

"The Welsh Government, as part of an exercise to collate information on the impact of budget cuts on Cymraeg 2050 targets, should provide an assessment of



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the potential impact of funding decisions on the number of learners able to access Welsh language post-16 provision, and in particular, apprenticeships."

In response to this recommendation, the then Minister for Education and Welsh Language accepted this recommendation and agreed to provide further information to us by the end of March 2024. We look forward to receiving this analysis in due course to inform our consideration of these matters. In the meantime, we would like to ask for the following information:

Details about the commitment to re-profile budget allocations for the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh beyond the term of the Co-operation Agreement, including any assurances that funding levels previously committed to in this area will be restored in 2025-26. This should include, please, any details of discussions to ensure that funding levels provided for in 2024-25 do not become the new funding baselines for post-16 Welsh education provision.

Information about steps taken by the Welsh Government to mitigate for any loss of momentum developing Welsh language provision in the post-16 sector, and commitment to providing the Coleg Cymraeg and National Centre with the required resources to maintain progress in the future.

Details about how the Welsh Government is supporting the post-16 sector to develop a bilingual workforce, which would enable learners to choose courses and training in Welsh or bilingually. This should include an outline of how the Welsh in education workforce plan, and any incentives in place, will encourage staff to undertake training to teach through the medium of Welsh.

We would also welcome an outline of how the work to develop Welsh skills in the education workforce interacts with the Welsh Government's response to recommendation 18 of the Review of Vocational Qualifications in Wales Report.

An update about how the recommendations in the Review of Vocational Qualifications in Wales are being progressed – and in particular, the development of vocational qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

An outline about the funding commitments aimed at ensuring continued growth and development is seen in post-16 skills and qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

A summary of the datasets and data sources used by the Welsh Government and its delivery partners in the post-16 sector to monitor staff and student Welsh language skills and learning requirements, and how it intends to support the improvement of data collection and analysis which will inform future demand for post-16 Welsh language education and training.

Information about how the Welsh Government is ensuring that good practice in developing post-16 Welsh language provision is shared elsewhere locally and nationally.

An outline of the assessment made by the Welsh Government of existing and future demand for Learn Welsh provision among the 16-25 year-old learning cohort, and an explanation of the government's role in supporting this.

We would welcome a response to our questions by no later than 30 May 2024.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.