

**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-06-1446  
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEEW/05468/24

**Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government**

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

8 July 2024

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your letter of 23 May, seeking my opinion on the issue raised in the petition calling on us to “abolish the name ‘Wales’ and make ‘Cymru’ the only name for our country”.

The question around using one name is a natural question. We’ve seen public bodies such as Eryri and Bannau Brycheiniog National Parks opting to use their Welsh names, and the Football Association of Wales using ‘Cymru’ in every communication, be it in Welsh or English. These examples have set a precedent for the idea and I fully understand why the question has been raised. It has been extremely interesting following the public debate around these examples.

As the Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for the Welsh language, I do of course support any public body who promotes its Welsh name, highlighting the language and our culture in doing so. However, it’s important to note that each of the organisations named above operates within its own context, with different issues to consider accordingly. Eryri National Park’s decision was the result of a vote by the National Park’s Authority for example, in an area with a high density of Welsh speakers. In Bannau Brycheiniog National Park, its identity had been subject to two years of discussions by the Park’s Authority with volunteers, residents, visitors and businesses. This included a stakeholder panel, citizen assembly and a consultation process.

Our policy as an organisation is to use the Welsh language as well as English, to reflect the nature of our work representing and working on behalf of everyone in Wales, no matter where they live or which language they speak.

Our strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers* and our commitment in the Programme for Government to safeguard Welsh place-names has put the Welsh language high on the agenda, and raised people’s awareness of these issues. We also have a

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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.

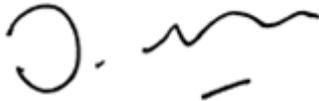
strategy on using Welsh within the Welsh Government – *Cymraeg. It belongs to us all* – meaning that work to increase usage and mainstream the Welsh language happens at many levels in the organisation, internally and externally.

However,

it is not our intention to formally change to using only 'Cymru'. This does not mean that we are not extremely supportive of using 'Cymru' as an organisation, and we're eager to increase the use of the Welsh name for our country, as well as the lovely names we have for our towns and cities, our lakes and mountains, on our English channels as well as on our Welsh ones. I'm fully aware that seeing and hearing Welsh names, as well as understanding their meaning, can be a powerful tool in safeguarding and promoting them in Wales and beyond.

Regarding the name of the country itself, there are several factors to consider, including the economy, tourism, marketing and education. But ultimately, the name that we use for the country is bound up with our identity as individuals, as people, as a nation. With that in mind, we support the idea that anyone has the right to use 'Cymru' or 'Wales' for our country.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a wavy line and a short horizontal stroke.

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