

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: MA/MDFWL/0003/25

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair
Finance Committee

13 January 2025

Dear Peredur

Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill

I would like to thank the Finance Committee for their scrutiny of the Welsh and Education (Wales) Bill at Stage 1 and for the report published on 13 December 2024.

I have set out the Government's response to the Committee's recommendations and conclusions in the Annex to this letter.

I look forward to continuing to work with Committee Members on the detail of the legislation.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Chairs of the Children, Young People and Education Committee and the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru

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.

ANNEX

Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill

Government Response to the recommendations from the Finance Committee Report

Recommendation	Government Response	Change to the Bill	Change to supplementary documents	Comments
Recommendations				
<p>Recommendation 1. The Committee recommends that the Cabinet Secretary confirms when data about Welsh language teaching in the context of school workforce development will become available.</p>	Accept	No	No	Information on members of the school workforce is collected in accordance with the Education (Supply of Information about the School Workforce) (Wales) Regulations 2017. The data is published in the School Workforce Annual Census (SWAC). Any assessment of the number of education practitioners needed in each local authority in order to meet any target set will be included in the first National Framework.
<p>Recommendation 2. The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government includes a detailed cost-benefit analysis for all options under consideration within the Regulatory Impact Assessment for this Bill and all future bills introduced by the Welsh Government in the Senedd, in line with its own guidance.</p>	Reject	No	No	<p>The three scenarios set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) were not developed to describe different policy options. Rather, they provide a way of describing the Welsh Government's assessment of the likely investment required, based on an understanding of the current situation of Welsh language education in relation to the goals articulated in the Bill.</p> <p>The RIA focuses on providing a full estimate of costs for options taken forward in the Bill, rather than also fully costing the 'do nothing option' and the 'alternative option' in Chapter 7 which were ruled out for other reasons. Chapter 7 does provide an indication of our</p>

Recommendation	Government Response	Change to the Bill	Change to supplementary documents	Comments
				assessment of the relative extent of costs (high, medium, low) for each option.
<p>Recommendation 3. The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides a full and robust Regulatory Impact Assessment for any regulations made as a result of this Bill and that sufficient time is provided to allow the Senedd to consider any related financial implications that will arise.</p>	Accept	No	No	RIAs will be provided for each set of regulations made under the Bill. The majority of regulations to be made under this Bill will be subject to the Draft Affirmative procedure and the RIA will be laid before the Senedd ahead of the Plenary debate on the regulations, therefore allowing Senedd scrutiny.
<p>Recommendation 4. The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government provides a full breakdown of how costs relating to the National Institute for Learning Welsh was estimated and how this compares with the costs relating to the National Centre for Learning Welsh, and updates the Regulatory Impact Assessment after Stage 2.</p>	Accept	No	Yes	Any additional information on National Institute for Learning Welsh costs will be added to the RIA after Stage 2.
<p>Recommendation 5. We recommend that the Welsh Government provides cost estimates relating to increased demand for language immersion courses and that these changes are made to the</p>	Accept	No.	Yes	Since publishing the RIA, new local authority level data on late immersion has become available. The RIA will be updated with an estimate of costs relating to increased demand for late immersion..

Recommendation	Government Response	Change to the Bill	Change to supplementary documents	Comments
Regulatory Impact Assessment after Stage 2.				
<p>Recommendation 6. The Committee recommends that any post-implementation review undertaken by the Welsh Government assesses the overall costs and benefits of the Bill and whether this meets the expectations set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment.</p>	Accept	No	No	As part of post-implementation review, the intention is to assess the overall costs and benefits of the Bill compared to expectations set out in the RIA.
Conclusions				
<p>Conclusion 1. The Committee is broadly content with the financial implications of the Bill as set out in the Regulatory Impact Assessment, subject to the comments and recommendations in this report.</p>	Noted	No	No	We have responded to the comments and recommendations individually.
<p>Conclusion 2. The Committee supports the provisions within the Bill to allow for collaborative working across schools in developing their Welsh language education delivery plans and notes the cost savings which may arise as a result.</p>	Noted	No	Yes	This point will be made explicit in the RIA narrative.