

ALL-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP on MODERN LANGUAGES

Chair: Tonia Antoniazzi MP (Lab); Co-Chair: Baroness Coussins (CB);
Vice-Chairs: Darren Paffey MP (Lab); Lord Dykes (CB); Lord Sherbourne of Didsbury (Con).



3 April 2025

To:
Delyth Jewell, Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

CC:
Wendy Larner, Vice Chancellor, Cardiff University
Damian Walford-Davies, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Cardiff University
Pat Younge, Chair of Council, Cardiff University
Vikki Howells, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Welsh Government
Baroness Smith of Malvern, Minister of State (Minister for Skills) and Government spokesperson for Equalities, Department for Education
Heledd Fychan, Chair, Wales International Cross-Party Group
Alex Barros-Curtis, MP for Cardiff West
Stephen Doughty, MP for Cardiff South and Penarth
Anna McMorris, MP for Cardiff North
Jo Stevens, MP for Cardiff East

Dear Mrs Jewell,

Request for impact assessment of proposed closures in languages and cultures at Cardiff University

The All-Party Parliamentary Group on Languages is alarmed that Cardiff University is proposing to close degrees in languages and cultures at Cardiff University.

We wish to bring your attention to this matter (7 February letter attached).

What impact assessment has been made of the effects in Cardiff and across Wales of closing such significant provision of languages study, in terms of international relations?

In addition to international relations, the provision of languages and the related importance of Cardiff University's international partnerships play an important role in your other areas of responsibility including the Welsh Language, culture; the arts; historic environment; communications, broadcasting; the media, and sport.

For example, Cardiff University is the largest provider of modern languages degrees in Wales, accounting for over 60 per cent of all undergraduate intake. This would make access to languages within Wales difficult for many – forcing linguists to leave Wales for their degree and future careers and reducing the number of graduates in Wales with international experience and skills.

Cardiff University is a regular recipient of funds from the Turing Scheme and the Welsh Government's Taith Scheme¹, both of which fund international mobilities and (in the case of Taith) reciprocal international exchanges, which brings international students, researchers and other international visitors (short and long term) to Wales, boosting the local economy. How many of these mobilities would be affected by these closures and how will this impact international relations for Wales?

We would be grateful if you could provide reassurance that full impact assessment has been made of the proposals, across a full range of criteria under your areas of responsibility, including those above, and provide details of any such impact assessment.

Best wishes,

Tonia Antoniazzi MP, Chair

Baroness Jean Coussins, Co-Chair

All-Party Parliamentary Group on Modern Languages
APPG Secretariat: APPGML@ciol.org.uk

¹We note for example that Taith has funded five 'planned projects'¹ at Cardiff University from 2022-2024, funding 1,311 individuals to a total of £2,829,518 <https://www.taith.wales/impact/planned-projects/>