



Ein cyf/Our ref: MD-20250716

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Senedd Cymru,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

15 August 2025

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter, dated 28 July, requesting further information following my appearance before the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee on 16 July. I answer each of your questions in turn below.

- 1. During the session, it was noted that an increase in grant funding in the last budget round ensured that each Menter Iaith received either a minimum uplift of 5%, or an increase to bring their annual grant to at least £100,000. This was the first such increase in several years and was widely welcomed. For those mentrau iaith that previously received a baseline grant of around £60,000, this is a significant increase in their core budget. For those who were already in receipt of £100,000+, the increase of 5 percent is significantly lower as a proportion of their grant funding. Set against the backdrop of significant inflationary costs, particularly costs to hold larger local events and festivals, and rising staffing costs, is the Welsh Government considering further adjustments to address this disparity in funding for the mentrau**

Securing a minimum of £100,000 for each language initiative has been a consistent request from Mentrau Iaith Cymru over recent years. We are pleased that the financial situation of the 2025-26 financial year has allowed us to enable this. The financial situation did not allow for an increase of more than 5% for the rest of the mentrau iaith. Nevertheless, a number of mentrau succeed in obtaining further funding from other sources (Mentrau Iaith Cymru figures show that the annual

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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.

turnover of Mentrau Iaith during 2023-24 was £6,905,852. £2,331,473 of this amount came from the Welsh Government's core grant and £4,574,379 came from other sources of funding). Officials are in regular discussions with grant partners in order to identify other relevant funding streams that they could consider beyond those of *Cymraeg 2050*.

2. Could you provide a breakdown of the proportion of the Welsh Government's Welsh language budget in recent years that has been specifically allocated to lay the foundations for future Welsh language technological development?

From the Welsh Government's *Cymraeg 2050* funds, we have spent almost £3 million (£2,907,464) on technology and the Welsh language since the launch of our *Welsh Language Technology Action Plan* in 2018. The table below details this expenditure per annum. A [final report on the Scheme](#) is also available on our website.

Year	Sum
2025-26	£402,150
2024-25	£383,000
2023-24	£418,000
2022-23	£493,000
2021-22	£460,000
2020-21	£467,000
2019-20	£184,314
2018-19	£100,000

3. Could you clarify whether the Welsh Government intends to publish a formal strategy/plan beyond the priorities or establish an expert advisory group to support the long-term development of Welsh language technology?

In drafting the priorities for technology and the Welsh language (published in January this year), we held a call for information so we could understand the wishes and priorities of people in the field. The [call and a summary of the response to it are available on our website](#). During the rest of this Senedd term, our focus will be on the practical implementation of the priorities. As we do this, we'll work closely with experts from the Centre for Digital Public Services, experts in technology companies, our own technology experts and others. We don't, therefore, intend to form a specific group for technology and Cymraeg before the end of this Senedd term.

4. To what extent is there a need for a more strategic approach to Welsh language research, particularly in relation to language use, and through which mechanisms or institutions could such a strategy be delivered effectively?

We're currently planning and working with the wider research community to ensure that we develop policy based on sound and relevant evidence. Our statisticians and

researchers plan our evidence annually, aligned with the core themes of *Cymraeg 2050*. An important development in the coming months will be the publication of a *Cymraeg 2050 Areas of Research Interest* document (see [Areas of research interest](#) on the UK Government website for more information on this approach). The document will communicate to the wider research community the key research questions relating to *Cymraeg 2050* on which we'd like to collaborate. Its aim is to facilitate the exchange of information, promote the impact of research on policy, and support applications for funding for research on the Welsh language. When the document is published, we'll engage in further discussion with the research community on these areas.

In relation to language use in particular, a Welsh Language Use Survey was carried out between July 2019 and March 2020 to examine how Welsh speakers use the language in a variety of contexts—socially, in the workplace, and on digital platforms. Although the survey ended earlier than expected due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all findings have been published [on the Welsh Government website](#). We're currently considering undertaking a further Welsh Language Use Survey, supported by a new contract for the National Survey for Wales. To complement this, Prosiect BRO will offer detailed information on language use at a community level.

The ARFOR 2 programme is also an example of a strategic approach to conducting research and evaluation. ARFOR 2 piloted economic interventions to support entrepreneurship and business growth, while safeguarding the Welsh language in key areas. Evaluation and learning were embedded throughout the process, including independent assessments and targeted research on issues such as language use in the workplace and young people's emigration.

We also continue to commission research, for example an evaluation of the *Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan*, which looks at the impact and implementation of the plan.

5. Whether you agree with the evidence that there's currently a knowledge gap in terms of Welsh language use and use of technology in Welsh? If so, how effective can policies and strategies aimed at increasing language use in the digital sphere be if they are developed without a robust evidence base?

Measuring how many people use Welsh on technology - and how long they spend using Welsh on technology - can be challenging. This is partly due to the wide range of software available in Welsh (Copilot, other artificial intelligence machines, translation engines, speech technology and many Welsh language interfaces [and much other provision]), and partly because we create and consume Welsh and English content on the same machine regardless of the language of that machine's interface. Welsh is no different from other languages around the world in this respect.

However, it's possible to develop a picture of the success of our work by looking at factors such as the number of tool downloads such as the Cysgliad Bangor spell and grammar checker (around 15,000 since our grant to Bangor University made

Cysgliad available free of charge to individuals, the education and voluntary sectors and to organisations with 10 members of staff or fewer), Wikipedia articles and Welsh Wikidata items.

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- 6. One of the issues raised during this inquiry is the 'confidence gap' - where individuals who are able to speak Welsh may not feel confident enough to use the language or to identify themselves as Welsh speakers in data and official statistics. Could you set out how the Welsh Government is active in addressing this confidence gap to ensure robust evidence and data to inform future language policy development.**

We'll develop a Code to offer a single standard approach to describing ability in Welsh on the basis of common reference levels (CEFR) that anyone can refer to, as a result of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025. This will make it easier for individuals, regardless of their level of Welsh, to describe their ability in our language. As the approach is used over time, it will enrich the evidence base available to us to inform language policy development.

Improving the confidence of Welsh speakers at all levels wherever they are on their language journey is at the heart of our activity to implement *Cymraeg 2050*. Giving people skills as early in their lives as possible is part of the jigsaw - and that's the focus of what we're doing in the field of education. In our [Evidence Paper](#) to the Committee, we also referred to the work of the National Centre for Learning Welsh and the mentrau iaith. These, and the work of all our other partners, contribute to building confidence in Cymraeg. Providing opportunities for people to use their Welsh language skills is a key part of the effort to build their confidence. The theory behind this is that giving people opportunities to use the Welsh language increases confidence - and in turn that increase of confidence leads to greater use of Cymraeg.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Drakeford AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language