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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and
International Relations Committee

23 January 2026

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for the Committee's report on the 2026-27 Welsh Government Draft Budget, published on the 15 December 2025, outlining 21 recommendations for the Welsh Government.

We acknowledge the work undertaken by the Committee on their scrutiny of the Draft Budget and welcome this report. Please find enclosed the Welsh Government response to recommendations 12-17, relating to the Welsh Language, in advance of the vote on the Final Budget on 27 January.

Responses to the other recommendations will be provided by the relevant Ministers separately.

Yours sincerely,

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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.



Welsh Government response to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations (CCWLSIR) Committee's report: Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026-27

Chapter 3: Welsh Language

Summary

This report sets out the Welsh Government response to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations (CCWLSIR) Committee's Report on the Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026-27.

It provides responses to recommendations 12-17 which fall under Chapter 3 – Welsh Language section of the report.

A further two separate reports will be provided in relation to Chapter 2 – Culture, Communications and Sport (recommendations 1-11) and Chapter 4 – International Relations (recommendations 18-21).

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1. Introduction

The Welsh Government Draft Budget for 2026-27 was published in two stages. The outline draft budget 2026-27 was published on 14 October 2025 with the detailed draft budget 2026-27 published on 3 November 2025. It set out revenue and capital spending plans for the period April 2026 to March 2027.

As part of the budgetary process written evidence was provided by the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language to inform scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2026-27. This paper provided information to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations (CCWLSIR) Committee on budget allocations relevant to the Welsh language.

Oral evidence sessions were held on the 19 and 27 November 2025 where the CCWLSIR Committee took evidence from the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership and the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language.

The Committee published its report on [Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2026-27](#) on 15 December. We thank the Committee for the report.

The Welsh Government has considered the Committee's report and responds to recommendations 12-17 in relation to the Welsh Language below.

2. Recommendation 12

The Welsh Government should:

- provide a full breakdown of the distribution of funding to partner organisations under this funding stream, including how much will be allocated to the Athrofa;
- provide clarity on whether the funding allocated to support the preparatory work of the Athrofa includes funding to support the National Centre for Learning Welsh with its own inflationary costs and additional responsibilities;
- provide details of any discussions the Cabinet Secretary has had with partner organisations regarding the impact of a below inflation uplift on their operation and activities.

Response: Accept

A list of the grant allocations for each grant recipient in 2026-27 is provided at [Annex 1](#).

In 2026-27, approximately £0.489m revenue will be required to support the transitional costs associated with the establishment of the Athrofa. As part of Final Budget 2026-27, capital funding of £50,000 has been allocated to the Welsh Language BEL for establishing the new statutory body. This funding is separate from the funding allocated to support the National Centre for Learning Welsh. The National Centre for Learning Welsh will therefore receive a 1% inflationary increase in line with other grant recipients.

Officials have held discussions with grant recipients regarding the funding position. In line with the Third Sector Partnership Agreement all grant recipients were notified by the end of December 2025 that they will receive the same grant allocation for the next financial year and any inflationary increases will be communicated to them as at the earliest opportunity. As the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language explained to the Committee in December, the funding to implement the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act must be prioritised within the resources available within the Welsh Language BEL. Given the need to prioritise this funding, grant recipients will be provided with a 1% inflationary increase for 2026-27, which follows a minimum 5% inflationary increase for 2025-26.

3. Recommendation 13

- The Welsh Government should provide all partner organisations with the minimum 2 percent uplift, and fully resource those areas associated with the implementation of the Act with additional revenue

Response: Reject

The Welsh Language BEL has been allocated a further inflationary increase of £0.085m in Final Budget 2026-27, increasing the revenue budget to £39.419m in 2026-27. As detailed in the response to Recommendation 12, this has resulted in all grant recipients being allocated a 1% inflationary increase for 2026-27, which along with the minimum 5% allocated in 2025-26, represents an inflationary increase of 6% over two years.

Whilst we are unable to award the full recommended inflationary increase to core grants for 2026-27, the Cymraeg 2050 BEL has been allocated an additional £3.057m capital in Final Budget 2026-27. This will help support capital commitments faced by some grant-funded organisations. By providing additional capital support to organisations such as the Urdd and the National Eisteddfod, we will not only enhance Welsh-medium provision for the people of Wales but also strengthen financial sustainability and deliver savings in future years. It also includes £0.050m to contribute towards the establishment of the Athrofa.

4. Recommendation 14 and 15

- The Welsh Government must provide a real terms increase in funding accompanied by the increase commensurate with the additional activities the Commissioner is being asked to undertake.
- The Welsh Government, as part of any budget agreement, should seek to provide the Commissioner with the additional £83,000 requested as part of her estimate to undertake work developing Welsh use in the workplace.

Response: Reject

The draft budget provided a total revenue budget for the Commissioner of £3.475m in 2026-27, which was a 2% (£0.073m) increase on the previous financial year. Since then, a further £0.036m inflationary increase for revenue has been allocated to the Commissioner's budget which brings the total revenue in the Final Budget 2026-27 to £3.511m.

We are satisfied that the Commissioner has been allocated a sufficient budget to fulfil her duties. As an independent body, it is a matter for the Commissioner to prioritise activities within her available budget.

5. Recommendation 16

- The Welsh Government should:
- provide the Mudiad Meithrin with an inflationary increase at the same level as other partners that work to support and promote the language;
- set out how much funding the Mudiad Meithrin will receive as part of this Draft Budget, and where that funding is allocated.

Response: Accept

The funding to Mudiad Meithrin is met from both the Welsh in Education BEL (Education MEG) and the Welsh Language BEL (Central Services and Administration MEG) as set out in Annex 1. Mudiad Meithrin will receive an inflationary increase of 1% in 2026-27 in line with other grant allocations. The 1% increase will be supported from the uplift to the Welsh Language BEL and will total £44,510, increasing Mudiad Meithrin's overall allocation to £4.496m in 2026-27.

Mudiad Meithrin was provided with a one-off increase of £0.5m in 2025-26, and with the additional £44,510 allocated next year, Mudiad Meithrin will receive a 13.8% increase over two years.

6. Recommendation 17

- The Welsh Government should set out in detail how ARFOR has been mainstreamed into the general budget.

Response: Accept in Principle

For the 2025-26 financial year, ARFOR is receiving £0.5m in funding (Economy, Energy and Planning MEG) primarily to undertake a 'pause and reflect' exercise on the key findings of the programme to date, aimed at assessing what has worked well and delivered real impact, identifying what has been less successful, and exploring opportunities for mainstreaming by Welsh Government and, more locally, by individual authorities. The review is currently taking place and due to be completed by the end of March 2026.

This recommendation is therefore accepted 'in principle' so as not to pre-empt the outcomes of the review and allow time to consider the outcomes. No commitment has been made to fund the ARFOR programme beyond the current term. The findings of this exercise will be important in shaping future direction.

7. Annex 1 – Welsh Language grant allocations 2026-27

Sefydliad / Organisation	Dyraniad Grant allocation 2025-26	Cynnydd 1% increase	Dyraniad Grant allocation 2026-27*
Welsh Language BEL (6020)			
Prifysgol Caerdydd (Technology)	8,400	84	8,500
CFFI Cymru YFC	200,000	2,000	202,000
Coleg Cymraeg Cenedaethol	10,382,000	103,820	10,485,900
Cwmpas - Perthyn Grant Scheme**	400,000	0	400,000
Cwmpas - Prosiect Perthyn Advice and Support	157,500	1,575	159,100
Cymdeithas Cerdd Dant Cymru	10,500	105	10,700
Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru	68,250	683	69,000
Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru	58,850	589	59,500
Cynllun Paragonia Project**	80,000	0	80,000
Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru	1,250,000	12,500	1,262,500
Geiriadur Prifysgol Cymru	425,000	4,250	429,300
Llenyddiaeth Cymru - Bardd Plant Cymru	6,000	60	6,100
Mapio Cymru (Technology)	10,500	105	10,700
Merched y Wawr	150,000	1,500	151,500
Mentrau Iaith & Papurau Bro	2,999,850	29,999	3,029,900
Mudiad Meithrin - Cymraeg i Blant	1,230,000	12,300	1,242,300
Canolfan Ddysgu Cymraeg Cenedlaethol	15,629,000	156,290	15,785,300
Prifysgol Bangor - ARFer	70,350	704	71,100
Prifysgol Bangor - Iriaith (Technology)	367,500	3,675	371,200
Prifysgol Bangor - Y Termiadur Addysg	158,550	1,586	160,200
Promoting the Welsh Language in London	90,000	900	90,900
Prosiect BRO	100,000	1,000	101,000
Prosiect WICI Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru	15,750	158	16,000
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	2,713,500	27,135	2,740,700
Sub-total	36,581,500	361,015	36,943,400

* dyraniadau wedi eu croni fyny i'r £100 agosaf / grant allocations have been rounded up to the nearest £100

** dim angen cynnydd chwyddiant ar gyfer y grant / inflationary increase not required for grant

Welsh in Education BEL (5164)			
Pencampwr Iaith	65,000	650	65,700
E-sgol	600,000	6,000	606,000
Cwlwm	190,000	1,900	191,900
Mudiad Meithrin	3,031,000	30,310	3,061,400
RhAG	105,000	1,050	106,100
Sub-total	3,991,000	39,910	4,031,100
Total	40,572,500	400,925	40,974,500