

Leighton Andrews AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg a Sgiliau
Minister for Education and Skills



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref SF/LA/5226/11

Ann Jones AM,
Chair of the Communities, Equality
and Local Government Committee,
National Assembly for Wales,
T Hywel,
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff.
CF99 1NA.

29 June 2011

Dear Ann,

I am writing following the debate and vote yesterday on the Welsh Language Commissioner (Appointment) Regulations 2011 (“the regulations”). I am pleased that the regulations were approved by the National Assembly and that we can now focus on making the practical arrangements for the appointment of the Commissioner.

During Assembly scrutiny of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, Assembly Members expressed their desire to be involved in the appointment process. Accordingly, the regulations provide for an Assembly Member nominated by a relevant committee to sit on the selection panel which will interview candidates and make recommendations to the First Minister in relation to the appointment. The regulations define a “relevant committee” to mean a committee of the Assembly invited by the Welsh Ministers to make a nomination. To that end, on the 20 June 2011, I wrote to the Chair of the Business Committee seeking a nomination. When I invited the Business Committee to nominate, no other committee had been established. However, I recognise that it is now more appropriate for the newly formed Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee, which has responsibility for Welsh language policy matters, to make this nomination.

The Welsh Government is eager to press ahead with the appointment process and we would like to convene the first meeting of the selection panel in mid-July to discuss the job description for the Commissioner’s post and the detailed arrangements for the appointment process. Given the tight deadline, I had asked the Business Committee to nominate a member by 5th July at the latest. I would be grateful if you could let me know if you foresee any problems with your Committee meeting this deadline.

Given that the selection panel will be required to assess candidates’ knowledge of, and proficiency in, the Welsh language, it would be desirable if the Assembly Member nominated by your Committee were able to work through the medium of Welsh and English.

I look forward to working with Assembly Members as we move to appoint the Commissioner and to support him or her in undertaking this vital role which will make an important contribution to promoting the Welsh language.

Yours ever

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Leighton', written in a cursive style.

Leighton Andrews AC / AM

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