

**P-04-488 The right to decide: an end to the compulsory study of Welsh to GCSE - Correspondence from the petitioner to the Clerking team, 20.08.13**

Dear Ms Giddings,

Thank you for the email and a further opportunity to contribute. My fundamental objection to compulsory Welsh GCSE is the fact of compulsion. Why, if it such a benefit to Welsh pupils, must you force Anglophones to study Welsh to quite a high level? What do the pupils think? Both those who will study and those who have completed the course. Did Mr Lewis and/or his advisors think to conduct a poll of Welsh youth or their parents? Absent such a poll I do not think any review could be described as an honest or thorough exercise in policy determination.

It would appear that Welsh speaking is in decline. A matter which much saddens me. Possibly, it is because its most strident advocates of Welsh speaking have failed to sell a good product. For me, Welsh has its place in the cultural and spiritual life of the nation. It is not the language of business, nor of science, nor the professions. Nor should it be a badge of entitlement in public office or civil service. Otherwise, is to exclude a large majority. But, how do you sell Hwyl? Never by compulsion.

Yours sincerely,  
David Fitzpatrick