



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-541
Ein cyf/Our ref: FM/00634/14

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

18 June 2014

Dear William

I am writing in response to your letter of 30 May 2014 seeking my views on a petition presented to the Petitions Committee regarding the Mentrau Iaith.

Since the petition was tabled we have published our response to the 'Review of the Work of the Mentrau Iaith, Language Action Plans and the Aman Tawe Language Promotion Scheme' as well as a policy statement on the Welsh language 'Bwrw Mlaen / Moving Forward' in which the Mentrau Iaith feature significantly.

As stated in our response to the report on the work of the Mentrau I believe that they are a powerful and valuable tool in promoting the language and that we should support and appreciate the work they do, while at the same time strengthening the impact and influence they have.

The policy statement 'Bwrw Mlaen' also recognises that the Mentrau Iaith are an integral part of the communities they serve. I have announced that we will be investing £1.2m over the next 2 years to promote the use of Welsh in the community, of which £750,000 will be to develop the Mentrau Iaith across Wales.

I believe there is an opportunity for the Mentrau Iaith to support and assist each other, and there are already examples of good practice. This should evolve further and become formalised among the Mentrau to raise standards. In order to facilitate the strengthening of the work of the Mentrau, the Welsh Government will invest a proportion of the new fund mentioned above to support a programme for developing the capacity of the Mentrau. This investment will offer opportunity for effective leaders to mentor others. We will also invest in training and professional development programmes – a provision we will seek to offer to other partners in the area of language planning.

Yours sincerely

CARWYN JONES