



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-541  
Ein cyf/Our ref:FM -/01106/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
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Dear William

I am writing in response to your letter of 1 September, asking for my views on points raised by the Chair of Mentrau Iaith Cymru.

I have previously noted my views on the importance of the mentrau iaith in the context of increasing the use of Welsh in response to the petition and in my policy 'Moving Forward'. There can be no doubt that the mentrau iaith are an integral part of this work.

I was pleased to be able to announce the investment of £1.2 million towards promoting the use of Welsh in the community over the next two years, including £750,000 to develop the work of the mentrau iaith. In a situation where budgets continue to be tight I believe that this investment is substantial in order to increase the effect and influence of the mentrau iaith.

As the response to the report on the work of the mentrau notes, bearing in mind the context set by the proposal to merge local authorities, our aim is to move to a position over the next three years where we will be funding fewer entities across Wales. We believe that moving towards clusters of mentrau will provide an opportunity to raise the status and influence of the leaders that exist among the mentrau, whilst at the same time retaining and strengthening the local element which is vital to the existence of the mentrau.

Yours sincerely

**CARWYN JONES**