

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Your ref: P-04-597
Our ref: PO862/RB/NG

1 October 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 23 September about the petition from Catherine Patricia Jones urging the Welsh Government to protect the future of Funky Dragon.

I am aware that Funky Dragon is making representations to Members regarding the future of the organisation. These funding arrangements are a matter for the Welsh Government, and I am sure that they will be scrutinised as Members feel appropriate.

My understanding is that a grant, worth £1.9 million over three years, has been awarded to Children in Wales to deliver services to ensure that children in Wales are heard in decisions that affect them. My officials are in contact with the Welsh Government and Children in Wales to monitor how the arrangements are developing.

You will be aware that the Assembly consulted with young people about ways to encourage and support them to get involved in what we do as a legislature. These responses told us that there is a huge appetite from young people across Wales to have their say on the issues that matter to them. Assembly staff and Members are ensuring that these issues are heard and valued at the heart of the Welsh democracy by participating in Assembly business.

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

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Llywydd
Presiding Officer



Our approach to this has three key parts. First, **reaching out**. We will make sure that, wherever they are and whatever their background, young people in Wales can discover information about the work the Assembly is doing so they can decide how it is relevant to their passions and interests.

Second, **enabling debate**. We will provide a variety of ways for young people to take part in our work which are fun, inspiring and tailored.

And third, **feedback**. We will explain to young people how their contributions are making a difference so that they and others are inspired to engage further.

It is increasingly important, as our Welsh democracy matures, that young people understand and appreciate the role of the Assembly in their lives. The Assembly will play its part to ensure that we do everything we can to empower young people to have their say and be heard.

Dame Rosemary Butler AM
Presiding Officer