

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-336
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/05784/11

William Powell AM
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Dear William

November 2011

Thank you for your correspondence of 7 October in relation to the petition submitted by Ben Screen.

The Welsh Government continues to provide funding (£200,000 during the current financial year) through the Welsh Books Council, to Golwg 360 – the on-line Welsh language daily newspaper. This is in addition to the £171,000 currently being spent by the Welsh Government, through the Welsh Books Council, on Welsh-medium news and current affairs publications.

The Welsh Books Council invited interested parties to apply for the additional funding which was announced by the Welsh Government in February 2008 to provide a daily Welsh language news service. On 29 May 2008, it was announced that Golwg Ltd had won the tender. Golwg 360 was launched in May 2009.

There is no doubt that Golwg 360 has developed significantly since it was established. The number of visits to the website has increased regularly with approximately 90,000 visits a month. It has also contributed to the Welsh Government's aspiration of seeing plurality of news services in Wales.

One of the reasons Golwg had won the tender was because they offered a package which supported a new online news service as well as strengthening the weekly print *Golwg* magazine. The investment in Golwg 360 has led to job creation and training in both Golwg Newydd (the company which owns Golwg 360) and its sister company Golwg Cyf., which owns the print magazine. A total of seven posts have been created in Golwg 360, four of them journalist posts, and Golwg itself has created 1.7 new posts. The journalist training has been mostly done in-house taking advantage of the experience acquired by Golwg over many years. The majority of the jobs created are located in the Lampeter or Caernarfon areas.

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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The newspaper industry has changed significantly during the last few years with more emphasis on newspapers on the internet. Even during the three years since Golwg Ltd won the tender, on-line newspapers have developed to be very popular. We continue to believe that the on-line solution which emerged from the Books Council's tender process offers the best prospects for a sustainable solution.

Regards
Huw

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