

Alun Davies AC/AM  
Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes  
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-677  
Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/05235/16

Mike Hedges AM  
Assembly Member for Swansea East  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

government.committee.business@wales.gsi.gov.uk

17 August 2016

Dear Mike

Thank you for your letter, dated 3 August, to the Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding Petition P-04-677 Equal Access to Welsh Language. It has been passed to me to respond.

I recently announced the Welsh Government's aim of reaching one million Welsh speakers by 2050. Therefore, ensuring that all potential learners are able to access Welsh language courses, regardless of their background, will be key to achieving this aim.

As the previous Minister noted in his response, Welsh Government officials are considering the parallels between Welsh for Adults and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) provision and ESOL providers are encouraged to incorporate some Welsh language training into their classes.

I agree with the petitioner that learning Welsh should be as accessible as learning English. However, it is important to note that at present, there are different policies with regards to the charging of fees, and Welsh for Adults course fees are currently determined by each individual provider, not the Welsh Government.

The National Centre for Learning Welsh was established last year to provide the strategic direction for the Welsh for Adults sector. Its first task was to appoint providers to deliver courses from September 2016. Now that providers are in place, detailed discussions will take place between officials, the National Centre and the providers over the next year on the matter of fees for all learners. We need to ensure that all learners, regardless of their

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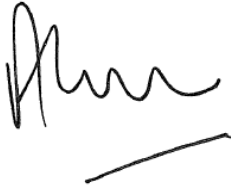
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

background, can access courses across Wales in order to contribute to the aim of one million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**Alun Davies AC/AM**

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Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language