

Alun Davies AM
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language
Welsh Government
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

22 September 2016

Dear Minister

Scrutiny Session: Priorities for the Fifth Assembly

Thank you for attending the Committee's meeting on 14 September and for answering Members' questions. Can I first of all congratulate you on your appointment and offer you the Committee's best wishes in carrying out your new responsibilities.

As you will appreciate, the session was an initial opportunity for the Committee to familiarise itself with your responsibilities and to question you about your current priorities. The Committee is still formulating its own priorities for scrutiny and policy review. I know that once our work programme is clearer the Committee looks forward to the opportunity to question you in more detail on particular aspects of your responsibilities.

The Committee's officials have already been in contact with your officials to follow up some undertakings you gave at the meeting. They asked specifically that:

- you provide the Committee with further information on the division of responsibility for the Welsh language between you and the Cabinet Secretary for Education;



- you provide us with further information on the timetable for the development of the Welsh language strategy; and
- the Cabinet Secretary for Education provide further information on the remit of the Donaldson Review in relation to the Welsh language education continuum.

On this last point, the Committee would also be grateful for any further clarification you can provide on what is meant by the ‘continuum’ in this context.

As you will be aware, earlier in our meeting we also took evidence from Ken Skates, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure. The Committee was somewhat confused as to where Ministerial responsibility lies for the ‘Media Forum’ referred to in both your and the Cabinet Secretary’s written evidence. It may be that the confusion is simply one around terminology. However, I wonder whether it would be possible for you to clarify the position?

On 15 September the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Karen Bradley MP, laid before Parliament a draft of the new Royal Charter for the BBC. There is clearly much in this that the Committee will want to consider as the Charter renewal process proceeds.

However, the draft Charter confirms the intention that one member of the new BBC Board will be a member for Wales who will be agreed with the Welsh Ministers. The Committee believes that there would be considerable merit in the national Assembly, through the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, having a role in the confirmation process. The Committee would be grateful for your initial thoughts on this.



I look forward to your response. I am copying this letter for information to Ken Skates in relation to the Media Forum. I am also copying this to Karen Bradley with a request that she lets us have her views on the point above about the appointment and confirmation process of the Board member for Wales.

Yours sincerely

Bethan Jenkins

Bethan Jenkins AM

Chair

