



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-676  
Ein cyf/Our ref:FM -/00024/16

William Powell AM  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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27 January 2016

Dear William Powell,

### **Establish a Welsh Language Champion in our Communities in Wales**

I am writing in response to your letter dated 12 January with regards to petition P-04-676 Establish a Welsh Language Champion in our Communities in Wales.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my views on the issues raised in advance of your first consideration of the petition.

The Welsh Government currently funds numerous organisations to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language across the communities of Wales. These organisations include the Mentrau Iaith, Merched y Wawr, the Young Farmers Clubs, Urdd Gobaith Cymru and the network of Papurau Bro. In total it is estimated that over 3,000 individuals volunteer on a regular basis within our grant funded organisations to support and strengthen the use of the Welsh language on a community level.

The Mentrau Iaith and Urdd Gobaith Cymru are examples of our grant funded organisation that currently undertake the duties noted in the petition with regards to working with local primary and secondary schools. They also work strategically with Local Authorities with the aim of ensuring a prosperous future for the Welsh language.

I do, however, believe that there is a scope for community and town councils to consider appointing a Welsh language champion within their structures. The voluntary duties could include responsibility for ensuring that the vitality of the Welsh language is mainstreamed throughout their area of work.

Yours sincerely

**CARWYN JONES**

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