

4 November 2016

Dear Bethan,

I am writing to you on behalf of Cymdeithas yr Iaith's Rights Group to request a meeting in the near future about the Welsh Language Standards Regulations.

We understand that the expectation is that the Welsh Government will shortly introduce further rounds of the Welsh language standards, as well as re-introducing the Standards for the education sector that were rejected in the last Assembly. You will be aware that concern was expressed during the last Assembly regarding the lack of opportunities for adequate scrutiny of the content of these regulations prior to their submission to Plenary. In addition, there have been a number of examples of diluting the draft regulations, which have been the subject of a Standards Inquiry by the Welsh Language Commissioner before they were submitted to the Assembly - denying the citizens of Wales their language rights.

In view of the above, we would like to arrange a meeting with you as Chair of the Culture, Welsh language and Communications Committee to discuss how the Committee can take full advantage of the opportunity to hold the Government to account on the issue of creating Welsh Language Standards Regulations and how they can be scrutinised in this Assembly term.

Could you also confirm that your Committee can call in the Welsh Language Standards Regulations for scrutiny - and that you will use this power on every occasion in the future?

We look forward to hearing from you.

Best wishes,

Manon Elin,

Chair, Welsh Language Rights Group, Cymdeithas yr Iaith

15 November 2016

Dear Manon

Thanks for your e-mail.

The Assembly's Standing Orders give the main responsibility for scrutinising subordinate legislation to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs (CLA) Committee. CLA is required to consider all subordinate legislation and report to the Assembly on whether it should pay special attention to any such legislation laid before the Assembly. The timescales laid out in the Assembly's standing orders mean that the opportunity for other Assembly Committees to consider subordinate legislation is very limited. It is unlikely that it will be practical to do so on this occasion given our work on our inquiry into the Government's draft Welsh language strategy, which we have just launched.

I understand that the standards will be debated and voted on by the whole Assembly and that CLA will consider them before they are debated in Plenary. However, I will write to the Chair of CLA, Huw Irranca Davies AM, drawing your

concerns to his attention and asking that CLA gives particular attention to these regulations once they are laid before the Assembly. Can I also suggest that if you have any concerns you also bring them directly to the attention of the Committee, whose contact e-mail address is seneddmcd@cynulliad.cymru.

Best wishes

Bethan