



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-794
Ein cyf/Our ref: FM -/05058/17

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Dear David

I am writing in response to your letter of 21 November, sent in your capacity as Chair of the Petitions Committee.

It is Welsh Government policy that the franchise for voting at local government and Assembly elections should be extended to include all those aged 16 or over on polling day. This was included in the consultation paper "Electoral Reform in Local Government in Wales", published in July 2017. Consultation ended last month and responses are currently being analysed.

16 and 17 year olds are already able to vote in Scottish elections and also voted in large numbers in the Scottish referendum of 2014. Young people have a high degree of interest in political matters and the Active Citizenship element of Personal and Social Education enables consideration of current events while they are still at school.

It is the intention of the Welsh Government that 16 and 17 year olds will be enabled to vote at the next elections to the National Assembly and local government.

Yours sincerely

CARWYN JONES

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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.