

Eluned Morgan AM

Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language

16 January 2020

Dear Eluned,

### **Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020/21**

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee on 8 January to discuss the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020/21.

During the meeting you agreed to provide further details on aspects of the budget.

In response to concerns that the budget for the Welsh language is flat and not keeping pace with inflation you said that there is a mainstreaming of funding across the whole of the Welsh Government which will contribute to the Welsh language. You gave the example of the £45m capital invested in schools last year which you say will directly benefit the Welsh language.

Can you clarify the areas in other Ministerial portfolios where allocations are used to mainstream the Welsh language, and how much funding is provided to achieve this? Can you also tell us how you hold them to account within Government, to ensure that they are focusing allocations on the Welsh Language, where it is being mainstreamed?

Please can you outline how you will demonstrate the return on investment for the Welsh language from this mainstreamed spending? Members are concerned that mainstreaming without providing relevant information could result in a lack of transparency in terms of how we assess the outcomes of Welsh Government spending on the Welsh language.

### **Further Education**

I understand that a further £14m has been allocated to Further Education in general, can you confirm how much of that will be spent on Welsh medium education, including apprenticeships?

Please can you provide us with the current total and the target figure for Welsh medium apprenticeships?

### **National Centre for Learning Welsh**

During the meeting you mentioned the importance of continually seeking value for money and to 'just keep probing are we spending the right money in the right places'.

In Plenary on 8 January you also said:

'I have to say completely clearly that I'm very pleased with the work that the National Centre for Learning Welsh is doing. About 12,000 people are learning through the medium of Welsh. We are giving about £13m to the centre, so it is quite a large proportion of my budget. That's why I just want to scrutinise in more detail how that is being spent.'

Please can you set out your plans for reviewing the funding for the National Centre for Learning Welsh, including the timetable for this work and, if possible, details of the areas where you are considering making savings? Can you tell us why you have identified the National Centre for Learning Welsh as the place where savings need to be made, as compared to other elements of your portfolio? I would be grateful if you could update the Committee with the results of this review when they are available.

### **Work of the Welsh Commissioner**

When we spoke to the Welsh Language Commissioner at our meeting on 18 September 2019, he was asked to comment on the need for research into language usage and said 'There will also be a request to the Government that if they are keen for us to undertake work on specific projects that will not add to our core budget but will be project money.'

You have said that you do not intend to allocate more within the budget for the Welsh Language Commissioner on specific projects or programmes, on a case by case basis. Are you entirely satisfied that the Commissioner will be able to discharge his duties effectively within the budget allocated, and did he make a specific request for more finance in your deliberations with him over the budget?

In order to inform our discussions on the Draft Budget I would be grateful if you could reply by 30 January, with apologies for the short deadline.

Yours sincerely,



Bethan Sayed

**Chair of the Committee**