



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-873
Ein cyf/Our ref EM/05797/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Assembly Member for Aberconwy
Chair - Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Tŷ Hywel
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14 January 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter regarding petition P-05-873 - 'Free Welsh Lessons for the People of Wales'.

The establishment of the National Centre for Learning Welsh has provided an opportunity to harmonize many aspects of the Learn Welsh programme, including tuition fees. The new arrangements of £90 per mainstream course are already in place and are achieving consistency and fairness for all learners across Wales.

Although offering free Welsh language courses for adults is not one of the 10 transformational changes noted in 'Cymraeg 2050', the National Centre for Learning Welsh has worked very closely with providers to create a Welsh for Everyone scheme. The scheme offers adult learners the same opportunities to enable them to learn; whether they have lost the language they had since leaving school, need a refresher to gain confidence, or are new learners.

A consistent tuition fee discount structure is in place, including a 40% discount for students and individuals on benefits, and a discount of up to 100% (i.e. offering free courses) for some courses.

The Centre also has a Financial Contingency Fund which offers financial assistance to Welsh learners. It offers help towards a range of costs, including childcare and travel costs,

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

to reduce barriers to learning. The Centre has also invested in developing provision that suits more people, including offering more blended learning and on-line courses which allows people to learn Welsh at a time which suits them with less need to travel.

As Welsh is now a compulsory subject for school aged children, every learner will have some knowledge of Welsh by the time they leave the education system at 16, giving them a good foundation to build on should they wish to do so.

I trust that the above information explains the steps that are in place to ensure that learning Welsh is made affordable and for as many people as is possible.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

Eluned Morgan AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol
Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language