



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-883
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/06172/19

Janet Finch-Saunders AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

14 January 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders AM,

P-05-883 National Welsh History Week

Thank you for your letter of 16 December 2019 enclosing comments from the Petitioner about the comments I made in response to the above Petition originally.

I read the petitioner's letter with interest and as I outlined in my previous letter, Welsh Government is delivering a number of initiatives to support this work. However I do acknowledge that there may be an opportunity to promote this work more widely ensuring a wider narrative on existing and potential activity or initiatives on Welsh history.

I shall be attending a meeting of the Historic Environment Group during the first half of 2020 and will discuss the petition and the promotion of the history of Wales with the group. The group has been established as a high-level forum to take a strategic overview of issues and opportunities in the historic environment and to promote common approaches. The group is made up of representatives from the major organisations in Wales with historic environment interests.

In addition, there are sector specific campaigns, in particular Explore your Archive each November and the Welsh Museums Festival, which takes place over the last week of October. Archives and Museums across Wales take part in these campaigns, which seek to raise awareness of our history and promote it to new audiences.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Dafydd.Elis-Thomas@gov.wales

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.

I believe that I have stated previously that it is essential that all learners in Wales have the opportunity to learn about our nation's history. Welsh history is a prominent part of the current Programme of Study for History at Key Stages 2 and 3. Learners are able to consider the local, national and global perspective of historical events, and develop their historical skills, knowledge and understanding through learning about a range of historical contexts.

Our national mission in Wales is to raise standards, raise the attainment of all children and ensure we have an education system that is a source of national pride and public confidence. The biggest change is a new curriculum for schools and funded non-maintained nursery settings in Wales from September 2022 in primary schools and for year 7 pupils in secondary schools. The curriculum will then be rolled out on a year by year basis in secondary schools.

The new curriculum is being designed with four key purposes at its heart. One of these key purposes is that all children and young people will be ethical, and informed citizens of Wales and the world, ensuring they are knowledgeable about the culture, community, and history of Wales and its place in the wider world.

The new curriculum will move away from specifying lists of 'topics / content' to be taught. However, we will be working with practitioners to commission new resources, which will refer to key events and topics in the histories of Wales and the world. The flexibility of the new Curriculum will allow teachers to deliver lessons in more creative ways better suited to the learners they teach.

You might also be aware that the Education Minister has asked Estyn to undertake a thematic review of the teaching of Welsh history in schools. Education officials are presently working with Estyn to agree the remit of the review and its findings will be published once completed by Estyn.

Furthermore, Education officials have recently undertaken a review of all presently available resources to support the teaching of Welsh history in schools. The commission of further resources to support the teaching of the new curriculum will be informed by the outcome of the Estyn review and by our work with practitioners.

Finally, you might also be aware that the National Assembly for Wales's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee undertook an inquiry into the teaching of Welsh history, culture and heritage and on 14 November 2019 – I have attached the link to the published report *Teaching of Welsh History, Culture & Heritage which included eight recommendations*.

<https://www.assembly.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld12870/cr-ld12870%20-e.pdf>

The Government responded on 23 December and I understand that the matter is to be debated in Plenary on 15 January.

Yours sincerely,



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism