

Huw Irranca Davies AM  
Chair  
Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Tŷ Hywel  
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

21 November 2016

Dear Huw

### **Welsh Language Standards Regulations**

I recently received an e-mail from Manon Elin, the Chair of Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg's Language Rights Group about forthcoming regulations to give effect to new Welsh Language Standards. I attach the text of her e-mail and my reply.

As you may be aware regulations for a similar purpose to the ones now expected were laid toward the end of the last Assembly but were not subsequently approved by the Assembly.

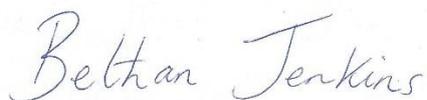
While the precise timing is a matter for the Welsh Government, I understand that the regulations, which are affirmative resolution and will require approval by the full Assembly, are expected to be laid soon. I also understand that they will then be scrutinised by your Committee under Standing Order 21 and 27.

Standing Orders provide for other Assembly Committees to scrutinise subordinate legislation if notice is given and within a specified timeframe. I would not want to pre-empt any decision by my Committee about whether it would want to scrutinise these particular regulations. However, given our other work, I think the timeframes involved may make scrutiny by CWLC an impractical proposition.



Your Committee will of course consider as a matter of course whether the Assembly should pay special attention to these regulations on 'technical' grounds under Standing Order 21.2. However, given the background and the views expressed by Cymdeithas yr Iaith, I would be grateful if you could also consider whether your Committee should also report under Standing Order 21.3 on the 'merits' of the regulations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bethan Jenkins". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

**Bethan Jenkins AM**  
**Chair**



**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](mailto:seneddmcd@cynulliad.cymru).

Best wishes

Bethan