



Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu  
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
CWLC(5)-03-16 PTN2

Guto Bebb MP  
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Wales  
Wales Office  
1 Caspian Point  
Caspian Way  
Cardiff  
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25/08/2016

Dear Guto,

### **The Proposed Wales Bill**

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the Wales Bill and for responding to the questions I raised.

You noted during our meeting yesterday your intention that the Wales Bill should have no impact on the implementation of the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011. I would like to ask one further question relating to this point.

I would be grateful if you would confirm that the passing of the Wales Bill will not mean that the consent of a UK Minister will be required in order to name Government Departments and reserved authorities within regulations to be passed by the National Assembly for Wales in accordance with the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011. That Measure allows Welsh Ministers to make Welsh Language Standards specifically applicable to persons or a group of persons that fall within schedules 5 – 8 of the Measure, through regulations, including Government departments and some reserved authorities. That in turn allows me to issue Compliance Notices to those persons named in the regulations, specifying the standards to be complied with and a timetable for doing so.

Schedule 6 of the Wales Bill, 'Transitional Provisions', states

- '1 The amendments made by this Act do not affect
- (a) The validity of an Act of the National Assembly for Wales passed before the amendments came into force
  - (b) The previous or continuing operation of such an Act of the Assembly'

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I would be grateful for confirmation that this part or some other part of the Bill will ensure that the requirement in paragraph 8, Schedule 2 of the Bill for Ministerial consent will not be relevant to regulations made in accordance with the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 in future, following the passing of the Bill.

I understand that Welsh Ministers are currently undertaking some preparatory work on Regulations to be made in accordance with the Welsh Language Measure (Wales) 2011 which will be relevant to some Government Departments and reserved authorities, for example HMRC, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Food Standards Agency and the Health and Safety Executive.

I would appreciate a prompt response to this question, if possible before the report stage of the Wales Bill on 12 September.

Yours sincerely

**Meri Huws**  
Welsh Language Commissioner