



Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-692  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/06197/16

Mike Hedges AM  
Assembly Member for Swansea East  
Chair - Petitions Committee  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

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28 August 2016

*Dear Mike,*

Thank you for your letter of 27 July from the petitions committee in relation to building an International Mother Languages Monument in Cardiff Bay.

I am aware of the background to this project, including the origins of International Mother Languages Day, the existence of similar monuments in London and Manchester and discussions in recent years about erecting a monument in Cardiff. However, there are currently no funding streams available which could accommodate this request. In addition, it is unclear if there is sufficient depth of support for the monument from the local community or whether it would have the intended impact.

The organisation might wish to consider making an application to the Big Lottery Capital Grants Fund. Alternatively, Wales Council for Voluntary Action offers a one stop shop for funding advice and opportunities.

The Welsh Government is continuing to deliver against our Community Cohesion Programme through funding for eight Regional Community Cohesion Co-ordinators who are working at a local level with partners across communities. This includes recognising the importance of diversity and working with partners to increase engagement and break down any perceived barriers. This approach is underpinned through goals set out in the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act around a Wales of cohesive communities and a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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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.

We want to continue to empower and encourage people to take an active part in the arts, culture and heritage. The Fusion programme is working to eliminate barriers to cultural participation so that everyone can enjoy the benefits. Taking part in cultural activity can boost skills, engagement, self esteem and aspiration. Furthermore, this Government recognises the role for children and young people to recognise Wales' place in the world. We continue to support the enhancement of modern foreign languages through our Global Futures Programme, which aims to increase the uptake in our schools.

*Yours ever,*

*Ken*

**Ken Skates AC/AM**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure