

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-783
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02323/18

David John Rowlands AM
Chair - Petitions committee.
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

SeneddPetitions@assembly.wales

23 October 2018

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 11 October about the petition for action to ensure the equality of Curriculum for Welsh Medium schools; as you note in your letter, we have corresponded previously on this matter.

Turning to your specific questions, the Welsh Government's expectations of Qualifications Wales are set out in the Qualifications Wales Act 2015. Arrangements for the approval and designation of qualifications, such as the designation of GCSE Psychology, are a matter for Qualifications Wales and they must when considering what is appropriate, have regard to matters including the "desirability of promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language, including through the availability of assessment arrangements that provide for assessment through the medium of Welsh language, and of qualifications that otherwise promote or facilitate the use of the Welsh language". Qualifications Wales work with awarding bodies to encourage them to offer Welsh medium and bilingual provisions and make grants available to awarding bodies to help them to meet the cost of offering bilingual qualifications.

The Welsh Government currently invests around £2.6m annually on resources to support the teaching and learning of Welsh, and other subjects and qualifications through the medium of Welsh. These are resources which are not available through a commercial market for financial viability reasons.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

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

Gohebiaeth.Kirsty.Williams@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Kirsty.Williams@gov.wales

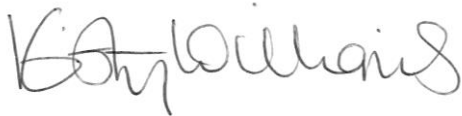
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Looking to the future and the new Curriculum for Wales, Qualifications Wales advises me that one of its priorities is to secure equal availability of Welsh and English-medium provision from the outset.

I trust that you will find this information useful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', written in a cursive style.

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

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