

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



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-799  
Ein cyf/Our ref KW/02361/18

David John Rowlands AM  
Chair - Petitions committee.  
National Assembly for Wales  
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24 October 2018

Dear David

**P-05-799 Change the National Curriculum and teach Welsh history, from a Welsh perspective, in our Primary, Secondary and Sixth form Schools**

Thank you for your letter of 16 October about Welsh History.

In relation to the first point in your letter, please find attached at annex A, the list of schools who are working on the development of the Humanities Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE). All of these schools are working to develop the Humanities AoLE as a whole rather than working specifically on history (or any of the other disciplines upon which this AoLE draws - namely geography, RE, business and social studies).

Secondly, you ask how the new curriculum could strike an appropriate balance between providing discretion for schools and teachers on the content of lessons, and ensuring that pupils in Wales are taught about national and local history.

Professor Donaldson recommends that each of the AoLEs should include both a Welsh dimension and an international perspective in line with the recommendations of the independent review of the Cwricwlwm Cymreig. To support the embedding of these aspects [high level principles](#) were developed and these principles are being embedded across the curriculum including the Humanities AoLE of which History is a part. You will note from the latest version of these that there is a clear expectation that aspects relating to the locality and Wales as well as their relationship with Wales, UK and the wider world are embedded in the school curriculum at a local and national level. This includes local and Welsh history within the humanities context.

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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.

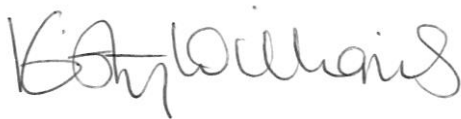
One of the four purposes states that learners should become– ethical, informed citizens who ...'are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world now and in the past'. The four purposes are central to all decisions made in respect of the new curriculum and these are reflected in the What Matters statements and the Knowledge, Skills and Experiences and achievement outcomes that are integral to the AoLEs.

For AoLEs that provide substantial opportunity to engage with Wales as subject-matter in itself, learners should have a wealth of opportunities to study Wales-specific context to their learning (e.g. the diverse traditions and forms of Welsh culture, writing, economics, politics and society, past and present). The Humanities AoLE will provide key opportunities for Welsh History to be embedded in learning and links with Welsh history within other AoLEs will also be made where appropriate.

*Successful Futures* has challenged us to re-think our approach to the curriculum. It makes it clear that a high degree of prescription and detail at a national level inhibits “the flow and progression in children and young people’s learning”. As such, we need to ensure that the new curriculum does not provide a comprehensive list of detailed content which would quickly become complicated and overcrowded. The curriculum must allow professionals the flexibility to choose the specific content which meets the needs of their learners in their specific context.

Throughout the process we are testing with practitioners to ensure the right balance between flexibility at school level and clarity at national level. The draft curriculum will be available for wider engagement in April 2019. The final publication in January 2020 will include exemplars to support teachers delivering Humanities.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams'.

**Kirsty Williams AC/AM**

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