

Kirsty Williams AM,
Minister for Education
Welsh Government

7 May 2019

Dear Kirsty,

Thank you for your response to my inquiry about the teaching of Welsh history and culture in schools.

Since my letter the Welsh Government has published the Curriculum for Wales 2022. The Committee will be looking at this more closely in the context of our inquiry in the coming weeks. Thank you for making your officials available to give us a briefing on the draft new curriculum.

As part of our inquiry we also wrote to Estyn to find out what information they hold. They gave us a summary of evidence from their thematic review 'Good practice in the humanities' and extracts from their inspection work.

In answer to our question about the feasibility of conducting a thematic review on this topic, Meilyr Rowlands replied:

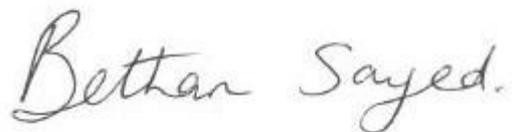
'I welcome the opportunity to undertake a more comprehensive thematic review of the teaching of Welsh history and culture through our annual remit. You will be aware that the Minister for Education recently wrote to me outlining her priorities for thematic reviews within our annual remit for 2019–20. There is capacity for one additional review each year. You may wish to discuss with the Minister whether this work could be agreed as an additional item this year. Alternatively, it could be considered as part of next year's annual remit to Estyn.'

The Committee would be grateful if you would consider tasking Estyn with a thematic review on the teaching of Welsh history and culture as part of their

terms of reference for 2019–20. We are keen to understand not only how learners engage with the history of their country but the extent of the teaching and how it is assessed.

Please can you respond to this request by 31 May in order for me to update the stakeholders who called for an inquiry into this topic?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bethan Sayed." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'B'.

Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA-P/KW/1784/19

Bethan Sayed AM
Chair
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
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23rd May 2019

Dear Bethan,

Thank you for your letter of 7 May regarding the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's ongoing work on its inquiry into the teaching of Welsh history and culture in schools.

You ask that I consider tasking Estyn to undertake a thematic review on teaching in this topic area, as part of the 2019-20 annual remit.

As indicated in your letter, there is indeed capacity for an additional review on a chosen topic to be carried out in 2019-20. I note the comments made by the Chief Inspector in relation to this issue. I will explore the matter with the Chief Inspector and update you in due course.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

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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.