



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: ATISN 11470

<mailto:>

24 August 2017

Dear ,

### **ATISN 11470 – Welsh Language Initiative**

Thank you for your request, which I received on 10 August 2017. You confirmed by e-mail on 17 August that the initiative you referred to in your request is the White Paper on proposals for a Welsh Language Bill, published on 9 August. The information you requested is set out below.

### **When was the initiative first discussed and how was it thrust on the agenda?**

The Programme for Government 2016-21, 'Taking Wales Forward', included a commitment to amend the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

### **What is the policy?**

The White Paper, 'Striking the right balance: proposals for a Welsh Language Bill' is available here: <https://consultations.gov.wales/consultations/welsh-language-bill-white-paper>

In summary, the key proposals are to:

- establish a Welsh Language Commission responsible for promoting the Welsh language and monitoring and enforcing compliance with Welsh Language Standards (the Welsh Language Commissioner would be abolished)
- simplify the processes involved in making and imposing Welsh Language Standards

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.

- remove the restrictions in the current legislation so Standards could be placed on any body, so long as it is within the Assembly's power to do so.

### **What is the cost per year to the taxpayer, including the employment of staff?**

The proposals within the White Paper have been prepared on the assumption of no additional cost to the cost of the current structures for promotion and regulation of the Welsh language. Table 1 within the White Paper outlines the resources related to general promotional functions which we think should be available to any body or bodies involved in promoting the Welsh language and monitoring and enforcing compliance with standards (£7.751m).

The White Paper also notes that: "We will use responses to this consultation to inform us as we finalise our proposals to amend the current arrangements for promoting Welsh and monitoring and enforcing compliance with Standards. When we have formed firm proposals, we will conduct a Regulatory Impact Assessment to identify the impact of our proposals. We will publish our Regulatory Impact Assessment alongside our proposed Welsh Language Bill."

### **What services will be deprived of funds as a consequence?**

As noted in response to the previous question, a Regulatory Impact Assessment will be published alongside the proposed Bill.

### **What is the yearly cost of a bi-lingual nation?**

The Welsh Government's specific budget allocation for the Welsh Language in 2017-18 is £36.195M. This includes spend on programmes to support the teaching of Welsh within statutory and post-compulsory education, promoting the use of Welsh and the funding of the office of Welsh Language Commissioner.

In July, the Cabinet Secretary for Education announced an investment of an additional £4.2m to support the teaching and learning of Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh.

In addition to the budget allocations which are made specifically for the Welsh language, spending on the Welsh language is undertaken across all Ministerial portfolios. Furthermore, the Policy-making Standards contained in the Welsh Language Standards (No.1) Regulations 2015, to which the Welsh Government is legally bound through the Welsh Language Commissioner's Compliance Notice, ensure the Welsh language is mainstreamed into all policy areas. As a result of this mainstreaming, funding for Welsh language aspects within spending on programmes and projects is not separately identifiable.

I hope that this information is useful to you.

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ

or Email: [FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:FreedomOfInformationOfficer@wales.gsi.gov.uk)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely