

Eluned Morgan AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl, Llesiant a'r Gymraeg  
Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref : EM/496/21

Bethan Sayed MS  
The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

[SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales)

24 February 2021

Dear Bethan,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Committee for all its work and support in relation to the Welsh language during the fifth Senedd.

*Cymraeg 2050* was launched in summer 2017, and a great deal of excellent work has been done since then. We have been working hard to establish solid foundations across a number of policy areas within government and beyond, so that the next government can build on these foundations and step forward with confidence towards the target of a million speakers.

In October of last year, I presented an [evidence paper](#) listing a number of highlights since the launch of *Cymraeg 2050*. In that paper, I also presented evidence concerning the initial impact of COVID-19 on the implementation of *Cymraeg 2050*. We will discuss this in greater detail on 25 February when I will attend a CWLC committee meeting to share an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the Welsh language. Although the world has changed drastically over the past year, a number of new opportunities have come our way, and we will continue to do our best to adapt and to innovate, as we look to the future, in implementing *Cymraeg 2050*.

We will shortly have a new government with its own ideas about how to move forward in relation to the *Cymraeg 2050* vision. Officials have already begun to work on the strategy's second Work Programme, and I am confident the next government will continue its positive relationship with the Committee.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

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

[Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@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.

In your letter, you ask for information in different areas that will support you to produce a legacy report for the next Senedd. Below, I will respond to each of the questions in your letter in turn:

## **1. Supporting and promoting the Welsh language**

You refer to recommendations made in your report, [Supporting and Promoting the Welsh Language](#), (July 2019) and ask us for an update in relation to these. For ease of reference, I have included an annex at the end of this letter with a detailed response to each recommendation. However, it is worth drawing your attention to the fact that not all of your responses are Government-targeted, and we are therefore unable to provide an update on those.

## **2. Revisiting Committee reports**

In your letter, you mention that you will draw the next Committee's attention to the matters raised in the following two reports:

(i) [Brexit, the arts sector, creative industries, heritage and the Welsh language](#) (December 2018)

(ii) ['Achieving the Ambition': Inquiry into the Welsh Government's new Welsh Language Strategy](#) (May 2017)

The first report refers to the impact of Brexit on different areas, but focusing specifically on the arts. I agree that it is important to keep an eye on the effect of Brexit on the matters noted. These sectors make a substantial contribution to the economy in Wales, and culture is an important part of our make up as a nation.

I would like to take this opportunity to provide a short update in relation to the report's recommendations. Officials have been engaging with stakeholders in Wales, other devolved administrations and UK Government on the issues resulting from the EU exit, including in relation to possible domestic alternatives to the Creative Europe programme. In recent weeks, these discussions have focused on concerns expressed by stakeholders that arrangements introduced through the new EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement will make it far more costly and complex to work and perform in Europe. Officials are working closely with Arts Council of Wales and Wales Arts International (WAI) to explore ways to support the sector, this includes support through Arts Infopoint UK.

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has established a new working group with creative and cultural sector representatives and officials from other key Government departments, to look at touring issues in more detail with a view to assisting the sector to work confidently within the EU. Devolved administrations are represented on this group and will work to consider a range of options to support the sector. We will continue to keep an eye on the matter to ensure the sector is able to thrive in future despite the challenges that come our way as a result of exiting the European Union and COVID-19.

As we consider more generally our exit from the European Union, we acknowledge that not all the implications are known at present. It is very likely that leaving the Union will have a considerable impact on a number of sectors (as noted above), especially the manufacturing and food and drink sector. Another matter which continues to be uncertain is the future of the regional funds that will succeed structural funds. This is likely to greatly affect the areas

within West Wales and the Valleys, where these funds have helped to withstand economic challenges. Similarly, there is uncertainty regarding the Rural Development Scheme funds, which again have supported the economic foundation of our rural economy. I will continue to work with fellow Ministers across the government to respond to the challenges that arise and to take advantage of each opportunity that comes our way to ensure *Cymraeg 2050* continues along the right path in this unstable period.

The second report you refer to refers to the Committee's response to a draft version of *Cymraeg 2050* that was subject to consultation in 2017 before the final version was published that summer.

The strategy is now long-established, and the idea of reaching a million Welsh-speakers has taken hold of the imagination of a great number of people, both within Wales and beyond. We have published annual reports along the way, tracking the progress made, and we have welcomed opportunities to discuss various aspects of the strategy with you. We have begun to consider a second Work Programme in relation to the strategy for the next Senedd term. We will share a draft version as a consultation document later on this year, and we would be very glad to receive the new Committee's comments at that time.

### 3. IT and digital

You also ask for further details on our [Welsh Language Technology Action Plan](#) following the publishing of our [Progress Report 2020](#) before Christmas. You ask specifically for a breakdown of the funding for all current and new workstreams, and for the timescales.

In publishing the *Welsh Language Technology Action Plan* in October 2018, I said that opportunities needed to be seized and technological challenges tackled, by attempting to foresee broader technological developments and setting a direction in relation to technology and the Welsh language.

I published 27 work packages, with the emphasis on speech, translation and artificial intelligence. As the work was funded from the public purse, I was determined the products created in each package would be available free of charge for all to use – and that is what has happened.

Four technology grants were awarded in 2020-21 as follows:

£345k – Bangor University Language Technologies Unit

£90k – Cardiff University

£15k – National Library of Wales

£10k – Mapio Cymru

These are the main elements that will be completed by the end of March 2021:

- **Bangor University:** conversational artificial intelligence and Welsh-language speech technology. New bilingual text-to-speech voices will be created.
- We have made it a condition of our grant to **Bangor University** that *Cysgliad* be available free of charge. At the time of drafting this letter, around 6,000 copies have been downloaded.
- **Cardiff University:** automatic sentiment analysis of Welsh texts using translanguagual methods.
- In **Mapio Cymru**, developing interactive maps with Welsh place names and a Welsh-language interface.

Welsh-language technology work in 2021-22 will include:

- Bangor University (£350k):
  - Improving accuracy of Welsh-language speech recognition and facilitating transcription of spoken Welsh. This will make it easier to create Welsh subtitles automatically.
  - Gathering public sector translation resources in order to create and test new narrow domain automatic machine translation for the health sector.
- Cardiff University (£90k): Undertaking a pilot of automatic Welsh-language text summarisation and to adapt the reading age of text.
- National Library of Wales (£15k): Strengthening the Welsh language within Wikipedia's international ecosystem.
- We Are Service Works (£5k): Developing Mapio Cymru to show names of rivers and mountains in Welsh.
- Publishing a detailed list of all software components funded by us to date so that they are available for all to use free of charge.
- Publishing a pilot scheme to facilitate software procurement.
- Continuing to work with the new Centre for Digital Services with the aim of building capacity in relation to Welsh-language technology across Wales and beyond (we are currently experimenting with a community of practice to this end).

In your letter, you also refer to restructuring matters at Bangor University, involving Canolfan Bedwyr. It is not for Welsh Ministers to express an opinion on the structural and staffing matters of universities. We will continue to maintain the positive relationship we have enjoyed with Bangor University for several years now, co-operating on various projects, whatever the structure of Canolfan Bedwyr within the establishment.

Thank you once again for your work. I trust the plans put in place by us will be a solid foundation upon which future governments can build.

Yours sincerely,



**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Y Gweinidog Iechyd Meddwl, Llesiant a'r Gymraeg  
Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language

Copied to: The Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Annex

Progress made in respect of the recommendations in the report '*Supporting and Promoting the Welsh Language*'

| Recommendation   | Response – June 2019  | Update – February 2021  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Recommendation 1</b></p> <p><i>We recommend that this Committee, or an equivalent Committee in the Sixth Assembly commit to a full review of standards and duties placed on organisations. This review should also include how usage of the Welsh language is growing.</i></p> | <p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p><i>This is a matter for the present Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, or the equivalent Committee in the next Assembly. I have welcomed this review, and in principle would be happy to see a similar review being conducted in future. I would welcome a review which considers the effect of Welsh language standards on the use of services through the medium of Welsh, and on the internal use of Welsh in organisations.</i></p> | <p>Position unchanged. I would welcome a review by the relevant Committee in the next Senedd.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 2</b></p> <p><i>A future review should also include an analysis of developments and modifications made within the</i></p>   | <p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p><i>As above, this is a matter for the present Committee or the equivalent Committee in the next Assembly. In principle I would welcome any review which considers how effectively</i></p>  | <p>Position unchanged. I would welcome a review by the relevant Committee in the next Senedd.</p> |

| Recommendation  | Response – June 2019  | Update – February 2021  |
|---|---|---|
| <i>existing legislative framework, along with the impact of those changes.</i>  | <i>legislation is being implemented, and the effect of any changes made as a result of this review</i>  |   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 3</b></p> <p><i>That the Welsh Government should ensure that any future proposals to amend or replace the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 is supported by the widest evidence base. This should include a comprehensive public consultation, because it will fundamentally affect the right of Welsh speakers. The evidence should show how such changes will enhance rights for Welsh speakers.</i></p> | <p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><i>At present, I have no intention of amending or replacing the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. It stands to reason that the Welsh Government would conduct a full consultation before making any legislative changes in future. A consultation was held on the White Paper in 2017, when the Government was considering introducing a new Welsh Language Bill. Important lessons were learned during that exercise and the wider discussions held since then, which include this review. The discussions on the White Paper have influenced the way the Government currently develops the next standards and promotes the language.</i></p> | <p>Position unchanged. The Government has no intention of amending or replacing the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 4</b></p> <p><i>We recommend that the Welsh Government explore options to adapt Welsh language standards, within the current legislative framework. This could be done by streamlining or combining multiple standards that have the same aim or outcome. Any changes made should not have a detrimental impact on the</i></p>   | <p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><i>I have noted the feedback received during the consultation on the Welsh Language Bill White Paper, and on the evidence received by the Committee during this review. When preparing standards in future we will consider how they can be streamlined and prepared in a way which reduces bureaucracy for the bodies which comply with them, while ensuring that they continue to bestow clear rights on service users.</i></p>   | <p>I have undertaken a detailed review of the process of making standards within the framework of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 in line with this recommendation.</p> <p>During September 2020, my officials attended your Committee to provide a technical briefing as a result of the work. It was outlined that we had considered possible options and discussed in detail with the Commissioner's office to learn lessons from their experiences of setting and monitoring compliance with Standards.</p> <p>We concluded that the only viable option is to improve and refine the current system of making standards which includes the following 3 element offerings:</p> |

| Recommendation  | Response – June 2019   | Update – February 2021   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><i>provision of services for Welsh speakers.</i></p>   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Combining standards with the same aim or outcome.</li> <li>• Ensuring that the standards lead to public benefits and that they contribute directly to promoting or increasing the use of the Welsh language.</li> <li>• Drafting the Regulations in a way that is easier to understand and follow</li> </ul> <p>We will also focus on more specific sectors in future standards Regulations. This will reduce the variation between the functions and circumstances of bodies subject to the same set of standards.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 5</b></p> <p><i>Any potential changes to standards should only be made for sectors which are not currently implementing the Welsh language standards under the 2011 Measure, such as housing associations, utilities and transport bodies.</i></p> | <p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><i>When preparing standards in future we will consider how they can be streamlined and prepared in a way which reduces bureaucracy for the bodies which comply with them, while ensuring that they continue to bestow clear rights on service users. Six sets of Welsh Language Standards Regulations have already been prepared, and this has led to over 120 bodies operating standards as things stand. I do not intend to revisit those regulations at present, therefore I agree that only in the context of Regulations made from now on should changes be made.</i></p> | <p>We are clear that we do not intend to re-visit standards regulations already in place. We will only make changes to Regulations made from now on.</p>   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 6</b></p> <p><i>We also recommend, where possible within the current legislative framework, that the Welsh Government and the</i></p>  | <p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><i>I aim to prepare appropriate legislation in the most effective and efficient way possible. We hold regular discussions with the Welsh Language Commissioner, and have learned</i></p>   | <p>We are working with the Commissioner to ensure that the legislation is prepared in the most effective and efficient way. The discussions take place on an ongoing basis.</p>  |

| Recommendation   | Response – June 2019  | Update – February 2021  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>Welsh Language Commissioner explore options to speed up the process for the introduction and implementation of standards in sectors which are not already implementing Welsh language standards. The Welsh Government should publish a time table for this work.</i></p> | <p><i>some lessons for the future having considered how previous Welsh Language Standards Regulations were prepared. I will respond to those lessons as I prepare future Standards Regulations. It is, however, difficult to be clear on legislative timetables in the light of Brexit.</i></p>   |   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 7</b></p> <p><i>The Welsh Government should as soon as possible, but only after taking account of the need to review standards, introduce the next set of regulations on health regulators and water companies</i></p>                                    | <p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><i>Regulations to make standards applicable to health regulators and water companies are being developed. In preparing standards, we will consider how to prepare Regulations appropriate for these sectors whilst streamlining them, and preparing them in a way which reduces bureaucracy on the bodies themselves.</i></p> | <p>Over the past year resources have been redirected to deal with secondary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• responding to COVID-19</li> <li>• relating to the European transition period</li> <li>• which has a legal obligation</li> <li>• special reason meaning that they have to come into force by a certain time.</li> </ul> <p>The Standards Regulations do not fall under these criteria.</p> <p>Nevertheless, there has been a progress in preparing regulations for health regulators. I have consulted with the sector and have made changes to the draft regulations following receipt of consultation responses.</p> <p>I wrote to the Committee on 29 January 2021 to explain that I have decided not to lay these Regulations during this Senedd term in order to consider how best to deal with one key outstanding issue that was highlighted in the consultation responses.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 8</b></p>   | <p><b>Accept in principle</b></p>   | <p>The Commissioner made the changes to the process for dealing with complaints in April 2019 and continues to</p>  |



| Recommendation  | Response – June 2019   | Update – February 2021  |
|---|--|---|
| <p><i>The Welsh Language Commissioner and the Welsh Government must explore options, where flexibility exists within the legislative framework, to speed up the complaints process. This should ensure best use of public resource, and provide the service user with swift resolution of their complaint where possible.</i></p> | <p><i>Determining a process for dealing with complaints is a matter for the Welsh Language Commissioner., I agree that complaints should be dealt with in the most effective way possible, implementing the Measure whilst making the best use of public resources. I wrote to the previous Commissioner in November 2018 about the process of resolving complaints, introducing some observations about how complaints could be investigated differently without affecting the rights of the complainant or the Commissioner’s powers. I am pleased to note that the Commissioner has taken steps to introduce changes in the procedure for investigating complaints. I receive regular updates from the Commissioner on the effect of those changes.</i></p> | <p>operate in accordance with that system. I continue to receive regular updates from the Commissioner regarding the impact of the changes made.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 9</b></p> <p><i>The Welsh Language Commissioner should keep its complaints procedures under constant review both in terms of its effectiveness and its impact on the service user.</i></p>   | <p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p><i>This is a matter for the Welsh Language Commissioner, but I support the recommendation in principle. As noted above in response to recommendation 8, I am pleased to report that the Commissioner is currently implementing changes to the procedure for investigating complaints.</i></p>   | <p>The Commissioner made the changes to the process for dealing with complaints in April 2019 and continues to operate in accordance with that system. I continue to receive regular updates from the Commissioner regarding the impact of the changes made.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 10</b></p> <p><i>The Welsh Government should set out clear demarcation of roles and responsibility between itself and the Welsh Language Commissioner, and</i></p>   | <p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><i>The Commissioner and I have agreed a new Memorandum of Understanding between the Welsh Government and the Welsh Language Commissioner. Between the Welsh Language Measure and the Memorandum, I am</i></p>  | <p>The Memorandum of Understanding between the Welsh Government and the Welsh Language Commissioner was published on 5 August 2019 and is available on the Welsh Government’s website:</p> <p><a href="https://gov.wales/memorandum-understanding-between-welsh-government-and-welsh-language-commissioner">https://gov.wales/memorandum-understanding-between-welsh-government-and-welsh-language-commissioner</a></p> |

| Recommendation   | Response – June 2019  | Update – February 2021  |
|--|---|---|
| <p><i>that is communicated clearly with stakeholders and the public.</i></p>   | <p><i>confident that the functions of the Government and Commissioner are clear in the context of implementing Welsh language policy. I will arrange for the Memorandum to be published on the Welsh Government's website.</i></p>  | <p>I discuss the memorandum with the Commissioner regularly to ensure the two bodies work effectively together.</p>   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 11</b></p> <p><i>The Welsh Government should move to enhance the status and role of the Welsh Language Unit. The Unit, in addition to its current responsibilities, would be responsible for drawing together external knowledge and expertise that will provide a strategic overview of language planning nationally. The Unit should also have an increased cross-governmental role, ensuring internal arrangements for effective implementation of Cymraeg 2050 is undertaken across government departments.</i></p> | <p><i>Since the decision not to continue with the introduction of a new Welsh Language Bill, the Government has been considering how to place more of a focus on language planning within the Government and beyond. To provide greater focus and rigour in language planning, promotion and behaviour change, both within the Welsh Government and externally, I have made funding available to employ experts to lead and advise Prosiect 2050, a new multi-disciplinary delivery unit within the Welsh Government which will be responsible for driving Cymraeg 2050.</i></p> <p><i>The funding of nearly £30,000 from January-March 2019, followed indicatively with around £115,000 in 2020-21, will be used to enhance the language planning expertise within Welsh Government by funding a new civil service post to head Prosiect 2050, and to commission a panel of up to four external expert advisers on language planning and related disciplines such as behaviour change.</i></p> <p><i>Prosiect 2050 will be tasked with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>co-ordinating the planning for our route to a million speakers, from early years through Welsh-medium statutory</i></li> </ul> | <p>In order to ensure greater focus and transparency in terms of language planning and promotion and increasing the use of the language, both within Welsh Government and beyond, we have established <i>Prosiect 2050</i>, a new multi-disciplinary unit within Welsh Government.</p> <p><i>Prosiect 2050</i> will improve the language planning expertise within Government, and will work across departments to ensure other departments adopt the spirit of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> in their policy work – in addition to the compliance agenda. <i>Prosiect 2050</i> will also benefit from a panel of external experts to provide support in relation to specialist matters such as behaviour change. It is also our aim that <i>Prosiect 2050</i> will raise the status and prestige of language planning in Wales.</p> <p><i>Prosiect 2050</i> will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>drive the <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> agenda</b> within Government and beyond: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>benefit from language planning expertise</b> to lead the work</li> <li>○ be a <b>multidisciplinary team</b> combining policy, marketing, behaviour change methods, research and statistics</li> <li>○ be <b>visible</b> internally and externally.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

| Recommendation | Response – June 2019   | Update – February 2021   |
|----------------|--|--|
|                | <p><i>education provision to post-compulsory education to Welsh for adults;</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>creating new initiatives, and evaluating current initiatives, specifically aimed at achieving our target of doubling the use of Welsh; and</i></li> <li>• <i>supporting policy areas across the Welsh Government to contribute to the maintenance of our Welsh-speaking communities and to the increased use of Welsh, in alignment with Cymraeg 2050.</i></li> <li>• <i>I am confident that establishing Prosiect 2050 will be an important step forward in implementing Cymraeg 2050.</i></li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <i>Prosiect 2050</i> will be tasked with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ co-ordinating the <b>planning for our route to a million speakers</b> – from early years through Welsh-medium statutory education provision and post-16 education to Welsh for adults.</li> <li>○ <b>doubling the use of Welsh</b> by creating new projects, and evaluating our current projects.</li> <li>○ <b>maintaining Welsh-speaking communities</b> by supporting policy departments across Government to ensure their policies contribute to this aim.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Prosiect 2050</i> will involve <b>work areas</b> such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The use of the Welsh language by the business sector.</li> <li>○ The use of the Welsh language by the wider population.</li> <li>○ Language transmission from parents to children.</li> <li>○ Geographically-based language planning, including Welsh-medium education provision planning.</li> <li>○ Language technology.</li> <li>○ Developing the ability of organisations to ensure they adopt the spirit of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> in their work, in addition to the compliance agenda (Welsh language standards).</li> <li>○ Developing expertise in language planning.</li> </ul> </li> <li>● <i>Prosiect 2050</i> will <b>base its work on language planning evidence and principles</b>. It will consider what works, allow for failure, learn from that failure, and if what we do does not work, we will take an alternative route to increase the use of the language.</li> </ul> |

| Recommendation  | Response – June 2019   | Update – February 2021   |
|---|--|--|
|   |  | <p><i>Prosiect 2050</i> meets regularly with external stakeholders. One of its main strengths is that none of us has monopoly in terms of good ideas or information.</p>   |
| <p><b>Recommendation 12</b></p> <p><i>The Welsh Government must ensure adequate funding for promotional activities undertaken by Government, the Commissioner or external agencies if it is to succeed in its aim for a million Welsh speakers by 2050.</i></p> | <p><b>Accept in principle</b></p> <p><i>The Welsh language budget is reviewed annually during the process of setting the Welsh Government budget. Through funding plans I encourage bodies to spend the budget allocated to them in the most effective way possible.</i></p> | <p>The Welsh language budget is reviewed annually as part of the government's budgetary arrangements, and my officials are making effective use of the budget to implement <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>.</p> <p>At the beginning of this Senedd, the Government came to an agreement with Plaid Cymru to allocate additional funding for the Welsh language budget during 2018-19 and 2019-20. The funding enabled us to undertake additional work and to innovate in order to support the aims and objectives of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>. I am pleased that £5m of this funding has now become a permanent part of the Welsh language budget.</p> <p>During the next financial year (2021-22), the Welsh language budget will remain at the same level as it was before the changes were made this year in response to COVID-19. Considering the unprecedented pressure on Government and its budgets as a result of the pandemic, this is to be welcomed.</p> |

| Recommendation  | Response – June 2019  | Update – February 2021  |
|---|---|---|
|   |   | <p>However, where savings can be made within the budget, for example where a computer system is built, we reinvest that funding in our work to increase the use of the language.</p> <p>This funding contributes to a host of projects within Government and more extensively, e.g. (this is not an exhaustive list):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Policy on language transmission and its use within families</li> <li>• The Welsh Language Technology Action Plan</li> <li>• The ‘Leading in a bilingual country’ programme, developing the ability of organisation leaders to ensure the spirit of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> permeates their establishments.</li> </ul> <p>I look forward also to discussing how exactly we can co-operate with all relevant partners to implement the recommendations of the Welsh Language Partnership Council’s Increasing Language Use in the Community Sub-group. The recommendations were formed on the basis of a report we published before Christmas.</p> |
| <p><b>Recommendation 13</b></p> <p><i>The Welsh Government should work closely with those conducting research in academia to identify gaps in knowledge, and develop programmes of research to support the Cymraeg 2050 Strategy.</i></p> | <p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><i>We already plan research carefully through an annual Evidence Plan, sharing information and cooperating with the Welsh Language Commissioner and researchers in the academic world. This work will continue under Prosiect 2050.</i></p> | <p>We review the evidence base to support <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> through our annual Evidence Plan, and develop our programme of research to fill gaps identified through this process. We have continued to develop our links with researchers in academia by contributing to research seminars and workshops held by higher education institutions or through dialogue with researchers on specific areas. In addition, we have established new links with higher education institutions through a joint-funded (Welsh Government and Economic and Social Research Council-ESRC) doctoral studentship programme, with the aim of adding to the</p>  |

| Recommendation  | Response – June 2019   | Update – February 2021  |
|---|--|---|
|   |  | <p>evidence base in priority areas and developing education research capacity for the future. We have continued to maintain regular dialogue with the Welsh Language Commissioner, sharing information about ongoing research and research outputs in Wales and beyond.</p> <p>We continue to investigate further ways to enhance our links with academia in future years.</p>  |
| <p><b>Recommendation 14</b></p> <p><i>The Welsh Government should review urgently how it can develop the Welsh Language Partnership Council to provide the expertise required for supporting policy development and language planning in Wales.</i></p> | <p><b>Accept</b></p> <p><i>The current membership was appointed at a time when the Welsh Government was beginning to implement the Cymraeg 2050 strategy. Members were appointed specifically so that Ministers could benefit from their expertise and advice in relation to the themes contained in Cymraeg 2050, as well as what were considered to be the main challenges to implementation. That being so, the members include individuals with expertise in a very wide range of areas.</i></p> | <p>The Welsh Language Partnership Council continues to support me as Minister with responsibility for the Welsh Language within government.</p> <p>The Partnership Council contributes to the implementation of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> by advising and making representations to Welsh Ministers. Members also promote the strategy among the organisations and sectors they represent.</p> <p>Members of the Partnership Council have a broad range of experiences in matters involving the Welsh language, from different sectors from all parts of Wales. This includes individuals working in the public, private and third sectors.</p> <p>Last year, I established three sub-groups to scrutinise various matters noted under the three themes of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>, and their efforts have mainly focused on the impact of COVID-19 on the strategy. The sub-groups are a channel for Partnership Council members, along with others we will invite to join, to undertake detailed and specialist work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Education Sub-group</b> has been considering the possible impact of the lack of contact in educational settings on the linguistic development of children, support for non-Welsh-speaking families (especially</li> </ul> |

| Recommendation | Response – June 2019 | Update – February 2021   |
|----------------|----------------------|--|
|                |                      | <p>those with children in Welsh-medium education), and advice on the planning of the educational aspects of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> in the longer term. This has led to the commissioning of RhAG (Parents for Welsh Medium Education) to lead a new programme to support parents, with the aim of targeting non-Welsh-speaking parents whose children are in Welsh-medium education. As a result, a new website was launched on 1 February in order to support parents to maintain their children’s Welsh language skills, and to help them find Welsh-language resources for remote learning (<a href="http://www.welsh4parents.cymru">www.welsh4parents.cymru</a>).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The <b>Increasing Language Use in the Community Sub-group</b> has been scrutinising the impact of COVID-19 on Welsh-language community groups. It held an on-line survey to gather information during the autumn of last year, and 1,092 responses were received. The sub-group’s report and findings have now been published, and my officials are currently planning alongside partners how to implement the recommendations, with the aim of safeguarding and increasing the opportunities to use the Welsh language in our communities across the country.</li> <li>• The <b>Economy and Welsh Language Sub-group</b> is looking specifically at the relationship between the economy and the Welsh language, in the context of the substantial challenges arising from COVID-19. The group will look at opportunities for the economy to ensure the Welsh language is able to thrive across our communities.</li> </ul> |