



Ein cyf JMEWL/00982/22

Mr Dafydd Gibbard
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This document has been translated
by Gwynedd Council.

13 June 2022

Dear Mr Gibbard,

Thank you for your letter of 3 May 2022 regarding simultaneous translation.

The Welsh Government has firm plans not only to increase the number of Welshspeakers, but also to double the use of Welsh by its speakers, as set out in the Welsh language strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: miliwn o siaradwyr*. We have a duty under the Welsh Language Standards to ask about the preferred language of those attending meetings organised by the Welsh Government. We will provide a translation resource for those unable to speak Welsh if a proportion of meeting attendees who are Welshspeakers have responded that they are keen to use the language at the meeting.

It is important that we use limited public resources in the most economical way in all areas and how we prioritise simultaneous translation has been agreed with the Welsh Language Commissioner. This arrangement allows us to make the best possible use of that resource, and use it in a way which means it gets the most impact on Welsh language usage.

When organising meetings our staff are encouraged to use their judgement, and attendees from organisations who operate through the medium of Welsh is one of those considerations, as well as the context of the meeting and its location.

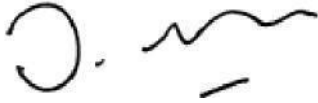
You specifically mentioned meetings relating to the coronavirus pandemic and the situation in Ukraine in your letter. Other bodies are exempt from implementing some of the duties of the Welsh Language Standards when responding to emergencies (by virtue of categorising them as category 1 respondents in the Civil Emergencies Act 2004). These exceptions do not apply to central governments but given our experience over the past two years we will discuss the appropriateness of this position for a body which has led nationally on our response to these emergencies.

The result of our latest partnership with Microsoft in relation to language technology will soon see the light of day. Our collaboration will mean that a

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.

simultaneous translation facility is available which will enable even more of us to use our language in Teams meetings. That will be available as part of an ordinary Teams licence at no additional cost and can be used for other languages as well. This is a case of Wales and the Welsh language leading a development that will increase the use of languages around the world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles MP

Minister for Welsh Language and Education