

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Robin Walker MP
Minister of State for School Standards
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
Westminster
London
SW1P 3BT

4 March 2022

Dear Robin,

Queen's Platinum Jubilee commemorative book project

Thank you for your letter dated 25 February 2022 in relation to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee commemorative book which has been commissioned by the UK Government. Your letter follows on from an exchange of correspondence with the Secretary of State in December and my subsequent request, made via my officials, for an opt-in process to be introduced for schools in Wales.

I do appreciate that the commemorative book is intended as a gift for all primary school children in the UK as part of wider Jubilee commemorations and as such has not been designed for use to support teaching and learning in the classroom.

In relation to my request for an opt-in process to be introduced for schools in Wales, it is disappointing that you do not feel there is an option within the arrangements you have put in place for the printing and distribution of this book to provide schools in Wales the choice on whether to they wish to receive copies of this book for their learners.

The concept for the book and the decision to distribute it directly to schools in Wales came from UK Government without any input from Welsh Ministers. My response to the Secretary of State's letter in December made it clear that I feel it is vital to ensure that the final product reflects the diverse histories and communities of Wales for our primary aged children, including that we are a fully bilingual country. My officials have worked closely with a Welsh history expert to provide feedback on the book to your officials on points of representativeness and factual accuracy from a Welsh perspective. I note that you have not reflected these points in their entirety which is regrettable.

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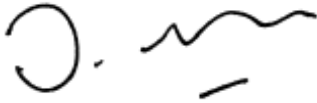
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

Although I recognise that the timescales involved with the distribution of this book are challenging for you, given that the book has been developed by the UK Government, it is my view that a choice needs to be offered to schools in Wales, and an opt-in process needs to be provided by the UK Government.

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 AS/MS

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Minister for Education and Welsh Language