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

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Dr Luis von Ahn
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer
Duolingo

25 October 2023

Dear Dr von Ahn

I am writing to you following the recent decision by Duolingo to pause development of the Welsh from English course by the end of 2023.

Since the decision was communicated, many learners in Wales and beyond have contacted the Welsh Government to say how valuable a resource the Welsh course is for them in their journey to become Welsh speakers.

As the Minister with responsibility for the Welsh Language, one of the main things for which I'm responsible is leading our nation's work to create a million Welsh speakers and to double the daily use of Welsh by 2050. Our Cymraeg 2050 strategy puts education at the heart of our vision to develop and sustain the Welsh language and having range of opportunities and resources in place for people to learn Welsh is key to this.

The recent success of the Duolingo Welsh course shows there's a real demand to learn the language. This is great news for us as we work to achieve our vision of a million Welsh speakers and I want to make sure we can build on this success.

Whilst I appreciate that the Welsh from English course will remain on the Duolingo platform, I fear the decision not to update its content will be detrimental in the longer term as the course could start to lose its relevance for learners. I am requesting therefore that Duolingo reconsider its decision to pause development of the Welsh course.
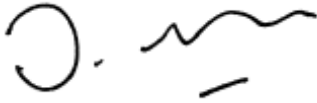
Having an up-to-date and relevant Welsh course on Duolingo would have an enormous positive effect for those currently learning and for those who choose to learn the language in future. We would be eager to work with you to look at how, together with the National Centre for Learning Welsh, we can support the continued development of the course.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
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Minister for Education and Welsh Language