

FOI request point 2 - all correspondence between Welsh Government ministers and their departments relating to the content of the book "Queen Elizabeth

From WG official 1

To WG spad

20/08/2021 - Queen's Platinum Jubilee - before mtg with SG officials

Thanks

This is very useful and will raise with DfE the question about content and what role is being offered to the devolved governments in relation to content, and I will keep in close contact with officials in Scotland.

Will keep you in the loop.

From: WG SPAD

Sent: 20 August 2021 09:28

To: wg OFFICIAL 1

Subject: FW: Queen's Platinum Jubilee

fyi

From: Jeremy Miles (Ministerial)

Sent: 20 August 2021 07:12

To: >wg Special adviser

Subject: RE: Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Thanks, it would be good to know more about the content and what role is being offered the devolved governments in relation to content, what is happening in Scotland etc.

From:WG official 1
Sent: 18 August 2021 12:10
To: WG Special Adviser)
Cc: < **Subject:** Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Hi

Hope you are well.

Just want to update you on work DfE are presently doing in developing a Queen's Platinum Jubilee commemoration book.

I recently met with officials from DfE, No10 Policy Unit and the devolved governments to discuss the background and initial specification for the commemorative book they are planning.

Their plan is to distribute such a book to all Primary School Children in the UK and it will be aimed at Age 9 reading skills. The book would be distributed in late May 2022 just before the Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations.

I advised that if the book was circulated to schools in Wales it would need to be bilingual.

I was assured that the book will also include Welsh events and diversity will be covered ensuring Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities are fully represented.

The DfE Schools Minister (Nick Gibb MP) is leading on the work on behalf of the UK.

I am due to meet DfE officials next week – following that meeting I will do an update for the Minister. I'm conscious I don't know what the Minister's view would be on these plans so I wanted to make you aware of this ahead of the meeting and take

your views. If you have any specific questions which you want me to pose to DfE officials or if it would be helpful to discuss this then please let me know.

Best Wishes

From WG official 1

To WG Spad

24/08/2021 - Queen's Platinum Jubilee - after mtg with SG officials

Hi

Met with officials from the Scottish Government this morning to discuss the Queen's Platinum Jubilee book.

Scottish Ministers have similar concerns to Welsh Ministers about content.

Scottish officials have asked DfE how early they can see what is in the book to allow them to make a decision on whether they want to be involved.

We agreed that we would keep in touch over the coming months to ensure we had a shared approach.

I am due to meet representatives from DfE tomorrow where we will outline our concerns.

From wg official 1

To WG spad

21/08/21 - Queen's Platinum Jubilee - after mtg with DfE officials

Hi

Further to my email below we met yesterday (25 August) with officials from DfE leading on the Queen's Platinum Jubilee commemorative book.

DfE officials outlined that the concept was an idea emanating from No.10 and that they understood that a very general letter was sent to Devolved Administrations to encourage support to mark the Jubilee but that it didn't mention the book specifically.

We explained our concerns in relation to the role of Devolved Administrations in agreeing content for the commemorative book and whether Welsh Ministers will want the commemorative book being provided to Welsh Primary school children. We also raised the issue of who the book will be seen as coming from.

DfE colleagues took on board our comments (which they said were similar to Scotland) and will look at ways for Devolved Administrations to become more involved in the process and with the final sign off. There is scope if Ministers are unhappy with the concept or the end product to elect not to have the publication distributed to schools in Wales at any point in the process.

DfE stressed that this is a commemorative book gifted to each child rather than a publication which is necessarily intended to be used in the classroom, similar in the past when Primary school children were provided with a commemorative coin for the Silver Jubilee (I remember getting one of these myself!). Schools are being used as the distribution method for the publication.

They have recently gone out to tender with a contract to write and publish the book and are allowing those bidding to come up with a concept for the publication and they will submit an outline and sample chapter as part of the process.

They are due to brief their Minister on the plans for the book in the next few weeks and are going to include a suggestion that he writes to the Devolved Administrations formally about these plans.

It was agreed officials would stay in regular contact as the plans develop and we will provide updates to the Minister on a regular basis going forward.

Thanks

From wg official 1

TO wg spad

07/01/2022 - Platinum Jubilee 2022 - Plans for Wales (enclosures 1-3)



SoS J Miles MS 30
November 2021.pdf



JMEWL1190221_Out
going_0.pdf



4thJan_SecondDraft_
TreasureBook (1).pdf

Hi

As you are aware Ministers received an update in early December on plans to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee which includes proposals from the UK Government's Department for Education for book for primary school children to mark the Jubilee.

There was a subsequent exchange of correspondence between the Secretary of State and the Minister for Education and the Welsh Language attached at docs 2 & 3 in which the Minister indicated that he looked forward to receiving further detail on the proposed content to enable him to fully commit to support the distribution of the book to primary school children in Wales.

The tender for the contract to publish the book closed in mid December and the contract was awarded to DK Books. They will *work with history consultant, who has written primary history books, been in charge of continuing professional development for teachers at the Historical Association and was a member of the DfE History Expert Group. He will work alongside a fact checker, a Diversity, Equality and Inclusion consultant and an independent editor for proofreading.*

Officials in DfE have provided a draft manuscript for comment which includes the first 32 pages of the publication and requested comments from the Welsh Government by close of play on 10th January. They have also indicated they want written

feedback at subsequent stages of the process and the timetable for that work is outlined below.

Those documents (see 4th attachment of this email) do include an outline of the potential content in relation to Wales and a history timeline. **In view of the Minister's response to the letter from DfE which indicated he would take a decision on Wales participation based on having a clearer idea on the proposed content I would welcome a steer on how best to take this forward.**

I have initially shared the document with an academic who has a background in Welsh History and their comments are as follows:

I've had a quick look and I can't spot any historical inaccuracies.

The coverage of Wales is minimal and I don't understand why in some cases Welsh examples are provided and in other cases not (for example 'Acting' and 'sport'). Why is Caernarfon Castle the only place of interest?

A lack of reference to the Welsh Language seems a major omission.

I guess it is what it is, but there could be more references to Wales and there should be something on the language.

A teacher secondee also reviewed and commented:

This looks like a lovely intergenerational story, I'm sure many will relate to. I just wonder whether the issue could be raised of ensuring it is culturally competent and when there are images etc included or names around the honours for example, that there is a diverse representation.

	Date r'cd by DfE	Date feedback
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	(close of play)	due with DfE
Review of revised version of batch 1 (32 pages) and first version of batch 2 (32 pages)	14-Jan	20-Jan
Review of revised version of batch 2 and first version of batch 3	26-Jan	01-Feb
Review of revised version of batch 3 spreads	09-Feb	15-Feb
Review of final version of cover and spreads	23-Feb	01-Mar
DfE sends feedback from final check		02-Mar

Best Wishes

From: Special Adviser)

Sent: 10 January 2022 10:54

To: WG official 1

Cc: Subject: RE: Platinum Jubilee 2022 - Plans for Wales

The Minister's response is below:

"I agree with your points below and think asking the history expert to review it for us is an excellent idea. The text subtly relegates devolution and the "devolved nations" despite a number of references – are they however seriously expecting a full editorial review from us by 14 January? That doesn't feel hugely collaborative, if so. I think our approach to this will differ significantly based on whether there is a genuine chance to influence the content and whilst I agree that excluding Welsh pupils would be difficult, I think our level of cooperation needs to reflect our opportunity to input."

From: WG official 1

To: Special Adviser

Cc: Subject: RE: Platinum Jubilee 2022 - Plans for Wales

Thanks

Will speak with Scotland this afternoon and update you asap.

If you want me to ask our history expert to comment on the draft let me know.

From: Special Adviser)

Sent: 07 January 2022 12:10

To: >wg official 1

Cc: Subject: FW: Platinum Jubilee 2022 - Plans for Wales

Hiya

It does seem Wales has been somewhat neglected, as the academic says it is v odd for example that Caernarfon Castle is the only Welsh example. The language definitely should have higher prominence too.

On Wales' timeline, why exclude the Welsh version of the act of union, but include the Scots and Irish ones?! It is strange also that William Wallace gets a shout out, but not Glyndwr. I could go on, but frankly am not an expert on these matters!!!

Also, parliamentary duties section should obviously include HM role in Wales and Scotland too.

I will try to get a steer from the Minister.

From: WG official 1

Sent: 21 January 2022 10:48

To

Special Adviser

Subject: FW: FW: FW: Jubilee book manuscript - for feedback by 2pm, 21 January-enclosure 4



Copy of Copy of
Jubilee book_Draft 3 f

Hi

Our History expert has now reviewed the draft Jubilee book and I have transferred all comments into the attached spreadsheet.

I propose to send comments to DfE for the authors/publishers to take on board.

Are you happy with this approach – the deadline for comments to DfE is 2.00pm this afternoon.

Best Wishes

