

From: PS Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

Sent: 16 November 2017 14:54

To: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 1 Llywodraeth Cymru](ESNR - Economy Skills and Natural Resources); [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 2 Llywodraeth Cymru] (ESNR-Transport-Infrastructure Delivery); [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 3 Llywodraeth Cymru](EPS - WLD); [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 4 Llywodraeth Cymru] (EPS - WLD)

Copi/Cc: PS Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

Subject: FW: Oral Assembly Questions for answer by the First Minister on 14 November 2017 - Update.

All,

Grateful if a draft letter could come forward to the Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning to meet the following commitment please.

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 3 Llywodraeth Cymru] / [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 4 Llywodraeth Cymru] – we'll also need a separate letter for the Minister to send to GWR following our conversation with her after Committee today please.

Sian Gwenllian AM: A few weeks ago, it became apparent that new trains of the Great Western Railway service, which serve south Wales, won't include any bilingual signage or announcements. As expected, there were a number of complaints made to the company by passengers, following this news, condemning the decision taken, including by the former Welsh language Minister, Alun Davies. Now, the company's excuse was that these trains serve areas of England as well as Wales, and therefore using bilingual signage and making bilingual announcements wouldn't be appropriate. Interestingly, some passengers in England have expressed support to having Welsh services in England, talking about their experiences of travelling from one country to another in Europe and hearing the language change regularly. Ensuring bilingual signage and announcements on trains is a matter of fundamental respect for the Welsh language. So, **can you commit to ensuring that language standards will be introduced by the Government in the transport sector—standards that have been on the Government's desk for almost a year, unfortunately—and therefore that companies such as GWR would be able to provide services and the respect that Welsh speakers deserve?**

First Minister: May I ask the Minister, therefore, to write to you about this issue?

They're able to offer the service now, of course. It seems that the story has been told in a way that suggests that this isn't possible at present, but it would of course be possible, and they should, in my view. Arriva have used the Welsh language on their trains although their trains travel through England; they don't physically change the language on the signage as they travel through England. So, there is no reason whatsoever why Great Western Railway shouldn't use both Welsh and English. I think that it's right to say that people would respect the fact that both languages are used, and that people in England would be very interested to see it.

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 5 Llywodraeth Cymru]

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – teitl swydd swyddog 5 Llywodraeth Cymru]

Is-adran y Cabinet / Cabinet Division

Llywodraeth Cymru / Welsh Government

Ffôn / Tel: **[Hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – rhif ffôn swyddog 5 Llywodraeth Cymru]**

Ebost / E-mail: PS.MinWLandLL@gov.wales

<< File: 171107 - FM - Oral Assembly Questions.docx >>

***Gweler dogfennau 6 ac 11 ar gyfer llythyrau at Siân Gwenllïan AC**

From: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 6 Llywodraeth Cymru],(EPS - WLD)

Sent: 05 December 2017 12:08

To: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 7 Llywodraeth Cymru], (EPS - WLD);

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 8 Llywodraeth Cymru],(ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources); [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 9 Llywodraeth Cymru],(EPS - WLD); [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 3 Llywodraeth Cymru], (EPS - WLD)

Subject: Draft Letter from Minister Welsh Language to GWR

Hi [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 7 Llywodraeth Cymru], / [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 9 Llywodraeth Cymru],

As you can see below, the Minister has asked for a draft letter to send to GWR in light of the exchange between the FM and Siân Gwenllïan in Plenary a few weeks ago, and the letter she received from Phil Bale. Here's a first attempt, grateful for any comments. I'd like to send it to the Minister before the end of this Thursday. Could I have comments by Thursday lunchtime please?

([hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 7 Llywodraeth Cymru], / [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 9 Llywodraeth Cymru], – to note that I'm offering a meeting on the technology side. Happy with this?)

Diolch

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 6 Llywodraeth Cymru],

I have recently been appointed as the Welsh Government Minister with responsibility for the Welsh language. During my first few weeks in the post it has been brought to my attention on a number of times that the first of a new fleet of Hitachi Class 800 trains purchased under the UK Department for Transport's £5.7bn Intercity Express Programme to serve the Great Western Railway service, will not include any bilingual signage, and the onboard announcement technology will not make any announcements in Welsh. I am disappointed to learn of this and believe that a failure provide such basic services in Welsh does not reflect the fact that the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes Welsh an official language in Wales. The Welsh Government is committed to promoting bilingualism and the use of the Welsh language, and wishes to ensure that its status as an official language is reflected across Wales.

The Welsh Government is committed to ensuring that Welsh is seen and heard as a living language across Wales, including on its main transport infrastructures. Providing services and information in more than one language is a norm in many European countries. As a large, international transport operator with experience in operating public transport systems across national borders I would be surprised if First Group have not gained experience elsewhere of providing bilingual services that they could learn from when providing services that cross the England / Wales border. Arriva Trains Wales have been successful in

increasing their use of Welsh on train services and when providing information to customers on several platforms.

Technological developments are constantly making it easier to provide information in more than one language, and my officials would be happy to discuss this with you with a view to improving the use you make of the Welsh language on services ran by your company.

From: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 8 Llywodraeth Cymru],(ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources)
Sent: 07 December 2017 11:46
To: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru],(ESNR-Strategy-Transport Policy, Planning & Partnerships); [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 11 Llywodraeth Cymru], O ESNR-Strategy-TransportPolicyPlanning&Partnersh
Cc: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 6 Llywodraeth Cymru], (EPS - WLD)
Subject: FW: Draft Letter from Minister Welsh Language to GWR
Importance: High

Hi both,

The Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning has asked for a letter to go to GWR regarding the issue of bilingual signage. Are you able to comment/contribute to the proposed draft below, in light of the meeting you had with GWR yesterday?

Thanks,

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 8 Llywodraeth Cymru],

From: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru] (ESNR-Strategy-Transport Policy, Planning & Partnerships)
Sent: 07 Rhagfyr 2017 12:56
To: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 8 Llywodraeth Cymru] (ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources); [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 11 Llywodraeth Cymru] O ESNR-Strategy-TransportPolicyPlanning&Partnersh
Copi/Cc: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 6 Llywodraeth Cymru] (EPS - WLD)
Subject: RE: Draft Letter from Minister Welsh Language to GWR

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 8 Llywodraeth Cymru]

As I mentioned yesterday, GWR said that it is now engaging with the Welsh Language Commissioner. Therefore, the response could state an awareness of this and urge GWR to reach agreement with the Commissioner on this matter and then implement that agreed position as soon as possible. However, I think Welsh language colleagues will be better placed to advise on whether direction in a situation such as this should come from the Minister or the Commissioner - or possibly both.

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru],
[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – teitl swydd swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru],

Trafnidiaeth - Polisi, Cynllunio a Phartneriaethau | Transport - Policy, Planning and Partnerships
Grŵp yr Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol | Economy, Skills and Natural Resources Group
Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government

Ffon | Tel: **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth]**,
ebost | email: **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth]@gov.wales**

From: **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 6 Llywodraeth Cymru]** (EPS - WLD)
Sent: 07 December 2017 13:22
To: **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]** (ESNR-Strategy-Transport Policy, Planning & Partnerships); **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 8 Llywodraeth Cymru]** (ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources); **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 11 Llywodraeth Cymru]** O ESNR-Strategy-Transport Policy Planning & Partnersh
Subject: ATB/RE: Draft Letter from Minister Welsh Language to GWR

Thanks **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]**,

That's very useful. It would be worth referring to discussions between GWR and the Commissioner in the letter to show that we are joined up. Are you content with the text below? Revisions in red:

DRAFT TEXT TO BE SENT TO GWR:

[Hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog GWR]
[Hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – teitl swyddog GWR]
GWR

[Hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – cyfeiriad e-bost swyddog GWR]@gwr.com

I have recently been appointed as the Welsh Government Minister with responsibility for the Welsh language. During my first few weeks in the post it has been brought to my attention on a number of times that the first of a new fleet of Hitachi Class 800 trains purchased under the UK Department for Transport's £5.7bn Intercity Express Programme to serve the Great Western Railway service, will not include any bilingual signage, and the onboard announcement technology will not make any announcements in Welsh. I am disappointed to learn of this and believe that a failure to provide such basic services in Welsh does not reflect the fact that the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 makes Welsh an official language in Wales. The Welsh Government is committed to promoting bilingualism and the use of the Welsh language, and wishes to ensure that its status as an official language is reflected across Wales.

The Welsh Government wishes to ensure that Welsh is seen and heard across Wales, including on transport infrastructures. Technological developments are constantly making it easier to provide information in more than one language. Providing services and information in more than one language is a norm in many European countries. As a large, international transport operator with experience in operating public transport systems across national borders I would be surprised if First Group have not gained experience elsewhere of providing bilingual services that they could learn from when providing services that cross the

England / Wales border. Arriva Trains Wales has been successful in increasing its use of Welsh on train services and when providing information to customers on several platforms.

I am pleased to learn that you have been in discussions with the Welsh Language Commissioner recently, and I hope that this will lead to an improvement in the use your company makes of the Welsh language. I look forward to hearing from you on your plans to improve the use your provision of services in Welsh in future.

Oddi wrth: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru] (ESNR-Strategy-Transport Policy, Planning & Partnerships) <**[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – cyfeiriad e-bost swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]**@gov.wales>

Anfonwyd: Dydd Iau, 7 Rhagfyr 2017 15:25

At: [hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 6 Llywodraeth Cymru] (EPS - WLD) <**[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – cyfeiriad e-bost swyddog 6 Llywodraeth Cymru]**@gov.wales>; **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 8 Llywodraeth Cymru]** (ESNR-Economy Skills and Natural Resources) <**[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – cyfeiriad e-bost swyddog 8 Llywodraeth Cymru]**@gov.wales>; **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 11 Llywodraeth Cymru]** O ESNR-Strategy-TransportPolicyPlanning&Partnersh <**[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – cyfeiriad e-bost swyddog 11 Llywodraeth Cymru]**@gov.wales>

Pwnc: RE: Draft Letter from Minister Welsh Language to GWR

Thanks **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 6 Llywodraeth Cymru]** – seems fine to me

Regards

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – enw swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]

[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – teitl swydd swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]

Trafnidiaeth - Polisi, Cynllunio a Phartneriaethau | Transport - Policy, Planning and Partnerships

Grŵp yr Economi, Sgiliau a Chyfoeth Naturiol | Economy, Skills and Natural Resources Group

Llywodraeth Cymru | Welsh Government

Ffon | Tel: **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – rhif ffôn 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]**

ebost | email: **[hepgorwyd yr wybodaeth – cyfeiriad e-bost swyddog 10 Llywodraeth Cymru]**

***Gweler dogfen 9 ar gyfer y llythyr anfonwyd at Great Western Railway**

