

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute
Response from CND Cymru

Dear Abigail,

I am writing formally to confirm that CND Cymru supports the concept of a Peace Institute and hopes that the Petitions Committee will recommend to the National Assembly that the National Assembly expresses its support in principle for the concept.

Both CND Cymru and I have written previously in support and given oral evidence to the (previous) committee - so I don't propose to burden you with repetitive paperwork.

However, there are just a three points of emphasis that bear repetition:

- 1) The Peace Institute has to be academically independent of government and vested interests and for that reason, not dependent for funding exclusively on any institution or body that might be tempted or perceived to influence the outcome of any of its research.
- 2) The support that we seek from the National Assembly and/or the Welsh Government (but preferably the former) should be for the principle of having an independent Peace Institute created and is not to be interpreted as a request for financial support.
- 3) The sponsors of our petition had requested previously that the Petitions Committee set up an informal working group, of AMs, committee support staff and the petitioners, to discuss the practicalities of creating a Wales Peace Institute. It remains our preferred procedure for progressing the petition as we believe the formal structure of Petitions Committee deliberations is not conducive to the sort of discussion needed to make progress. We do not envisage any more than 2 meetings of this task-and-finish working group as being necessary to resolve all outstanding issues.

Sincerely,

John
(for CND Cymru)
John Cox (Dr.)