

PET(4) WPI 37
Petitions Committee

Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute
Response from Brian Jones

9th December 2011

Dear sir or madam,

I would like to support the proposal that the National Assembly for Wales establishes a Welsh Peace Academy.

I believe that establishing a Welsh Peace Academy would be an important and significant step for the Assembly to take. Wales has a long history of peace makers and peace builders, together with an unusually internationalist outlook for a comparatively small nation. A Peace Institute would allow us to continue, and build on, those traditions, and would dovetail very well with the Assembly's commitment to sustainability.

Obviously the role of such an Institute would develop over time, but I would imagine that part of its brief would be to scrutinise WAG policies for their influence on peace and peace building, both here in Wales and of course in the wider world. I would hope that it would have the power (and funds) to commission additional research as required either by the Assembly or on its own initiative. The Institute would presumably report the results of any such research directly to the Assembly, although I would hope that most if not all of their findings would be also be made available to the general public.

I would envisage such an Institute having some form of management / oversight committee consisting of academics from Wales' universities and other interested parties, who have been nominated by NGOs and Assembly Members for a fixed term of office.

I hope that the Assembly will give serious consideration to establishing a Peace Institute, and will find the resources to support it despite the current difficult financial situation.

Yours faithfully

Brian Jones