

**PET(4) WPI 47**  
**Petitions Committee**

**Consultation on petition P-03-262 Wales Peace Institute**  
**Response from the Church and Society Division, Presbyterian Church of Wales**

Dear Abigail Phillips,

The Presbyterian Church of Wales is very pleased to respond to the Petitions Committee request for comments regarding the possibility of establishing a Peace Institute or organisation in Wales. Our General Assembly—our highest body—has expressed its support for the establishment of a Peace Institute in Wales along the lines of those in other small countries and regions such as Flanders and Catalonia.

Our church is one of Wales's nonconformist denominations and has an established tradition of support for peace as part of its history and witness to the world. As a church, we would be very keen to support any Peace Institute established in Wales by using our networks to promote the organisation.

We presume that such an Institute would include representatives from a variety of Welsh organisations—religious, political, educational and so on—and would be a forum for discussion and guidance to inform policy-making by the government, although without direct responsibility for policy. We would expect that such an Institute would have a small team of staff to organise meetings, undertake research and prepare papers on various issues.

We would, of course, be more than happy to nominate representatives to attend meetings on our behalf.

We would only foresee a positive impact from the establishment of such an Institute in Wales. The Welsh government would, of course, be criticised, by us and others, for its support for the production and development of arms in Wales and for its support of the use of our land and airspace for the purpose of training the armed forces. However, the positive step of establishing an Institute would provide the right platform for discussions and would provide the required objective information as we consider our involvement in the arms industry and the armed forces.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Powell-Davies (Reverend)  
(Secretary of the Church and Society Division, Presbyterian Church of Wales)