

Carl Sargeant AC / AM  
Y Gweinidog Tai ac Adfywio  
Minister for Housing and Regeneration



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-S24  
Ein cyf/Our ref CS/00187/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

29 February 2014

Dear William

Thank you for your letter dated 31 January regarding a petition led by Owain Arfon Jones on bilingual signage. I am grateful for the opportunity to comment as part of your committee's considerations of the petition.

The petition calls for the Planning (Wales) Bill to include a requirement for all new buildings, to which the public has access, to have bilingual signage. I am unable to support this petition as it calls for the inclusion of a non-planning policy matter in the Planning (Wales) Bill.

The Planning (Wales) Bill is concerned with amending the legislative framework for delivery of the planning system in Wales. The Planning Bill does not contain planning policy, which continues to be set out in Planning Policy Wales and Technical Advice Notes. There is existing guidance already in place relating to signs and advertisements, so far as they relate to the planning system.

Legislation enables the planning system to restrict or regulate the display of signs and advertisements only on the grounds of amenity and public safety. Planning guidance on this matter is contained in Technical Advice Note (TAN) 7: Outdoor Advertisement Control (1996).

The language that appears on signs is not a matter subject to planning control in legislation; therefore any policy would not be enforceable. However, Technical Advice Note 20: Planning and the Welsh Language (2013) identifies bilingual signs as one method of promoting the distinctive culture of Wales. Local planning authorities may promote bilingual signs and the use of Welsh names for new development and streets in their Local Development Plans.

The Welsh Government recently issued proposed standards relating to the Welsh Language, which include standards regarding signage. These currently apply to Welsh Ministers, local authorities and national park authorities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CS' or similar, followed by a period.

**Carl Sargeant AC / AM**  
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