

Busnes a Rhanbarthau - Gogledd Cymru
Grŵp yr Economi, Trysorlys a'r Cyfansoddiad

Business and Regions - North Wales
Economy, Treasury and Constitution Group



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Sent to: awelymor@planninginspectorate.gov.uk

7 March 2023

Dear Planning Inspectorate

Re: EN010112-001365-ExQ3 (Deadline 7)
Awel y Môr, DCO examination questions - Welsh Government Response

A detailed table of responses to specific questions raised is included in ANNEX A. This again, is a coordinated response from across policy areas of Welsh Government.

Our response, which was contained in the second examination set of questions, remains outstanding. It seems the relevant information has not been updated. Therefore, it continues to be a concern that the Community Linguistic Statements (CLS) does not fully understand the aims of the DCC SPG, especially in the context of the (paragraph 5.5 of the DCC SPG – Planning and the Welsh language).

The statement at paragraph 43 of the CLS states “*that such a project cannot reasonably be expected to arrest the already low and decreasing numbers of Welsh speakers*”. This statement is not in line with the full context of the DCC SPG, to the contrary the SPG highlights the need to protect the social and cultural use of the language within communities. The Welsh language strategy *Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers* as well as ‘Future Wales: the national plan 2040’ highlights the importance of safeguarding and putting the right conditions to enable the language to grow - across the whole of Wales. It is therefore expected that all developments consider the effects on the Welsh language as well as how it can help the language to grow.

Yours sincerely

Heledd Cressey MRTPI
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Economy, Treasury and Constitution Group

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
ChiefRegionalOfficerNorth@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



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ANNEX A

Reference (page number)	Question	Response
ExQ3		
18.6	Community Linguistic Statement Noting your response made in respect of the CLS at ExQ2.18.5 [REP5-044], are you satisfied with the amendments made to the CLS by the Applicant at D6 [REP6-023]? If not please list your specific concerns.	We are unable to see the update to document Community Linguistic Statement [REDACTED] and therefore our comments remain the same to the following applicant's comment to a previous examination question: The AyM project interacts with none of the highest density Welsh speaking language areas, in which context it is important to note that the DCC SPG (para 5.5) highlights: "The planning system cannot be viewed as a panacea to arrest the decline of the Welsh language; neither will it attempt to discriminate between individuals on the basis of their linguistic ability nor control housing occupancy on linguistic grounds. It's not about nationality, it's about protecting the social and cultural use of language within community". As such, the project cannot reasonably be expected to arrest the already low and decreasing numbers of Welsh speakers within Denbighshire. Any impact the AyM project may have on the Welsh language, either positive or negative, must be proportionate to the scale of impact which, as captured in the socio-economics chapter of the ES in (application ref: 6.3.3, Table 3.34), is considered to be minor with regards the impact of construction and/ or operational phase staff, and therefore the potential for dilution of Welsh speakers within the region.

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WG response (February 2023):

Within the document tracker deadline 4, dated 30 January 2023 there seems to be no response to the points raised by the Welsh Government on how the Community Linguistic Statement could be strengthened. The Community Linguistic Statement has therefore not been revised in response to these issues.

It is a concern that the Community Linguistic Statements (CLS) does not fully understand the aims of the DCC SPG especially in regard to the context of the (paragraph 5.5 of the DCC SPG – Planning and the Welsh language). The statement at paragraph 43 of the CLS states “*that such a project cannot reasonably be expected to arrest the already low and decreasing numbers of Welsh speakers*”. To the contrary the SPG highlights the need to protect the social and cultural use of the language within communities. The Welsh language strategy *Cymraeg 2050: a million Welsh speakers* as well as ‘Future Wales: the national plan 2040’ highlights the importance of safeguarding and putting the right conditions to enable the language to grow - across the whole of Wales. It is therefore expected that all developments consider the effects on the Welsh language as well as how it can help the language to grow.