

Cynulliad
Cenedlaethol
Cymru

National
Assembly for
Wales



William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Your ref: P-04-401
Our ref: PO262/RB/NG

9 July 2012

Sean William

Petitions Committee

Thank you for your letter dated 26 June bringing to my attention the petition received by your Committee urging the Assembly Commission to accept the recommendation of the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee that there should be a requirement in the Commission's National Assembly for Wales (Official Languages) Bill for the record of all Assembly proceedings to be in fully bilingual form.

The Commission has since responded to that recommendation by proposing an amendment to the Bill making it a statutory requirement that there should be a fully bilingual record of plenary (but not of committee or sub-committee) proceedings. That amendment was considered by the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee during the Stage 2 proceedings on the Bill which took place on 21 June. The minutes of the Committee's meeting may be viewed at

<http://www.senedd.assemblywales.org/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=226&MId=885&Ver=4> . A recording of proceedings can be watched on Senedd TV and the written record will shortly be available on the Assembly's website.

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The Committee passed the Commission's amendment without dissent. An alternative amendment proposed by Suzy Davies AM, and which would have extended the duty to provide a fully bilingual record to committee and sub-committee meetings was withdrawn.

The Committee to whose recommendations the petition refers has therefore now, in the light of the arguments placed before it by the Member in Charge of the Bill, Rhodri Glyn Thomas AM, endorsed the Commission's approach. In setting out the Commission's position, Rhodri Glyn Thomas stressed that although a legal commitment to provide a fully bilingual record of committee and sub-committee meetings was not something which the Commission could support at present, the Commission was committed to keeping translation arrangements for committee and sub-committee meetings under review, particularly in the light of future developments in translation technology.

The Bill will now return to the full Assembly for Stage 3 and Final Stage consideration which are likely to take place in the in the first week of October.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary".

Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer