

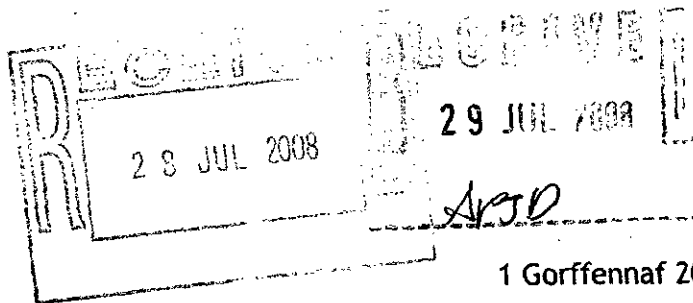
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Dr Llion Jones
Cyfarwyddwr • Director

CANOLFAN-BEDWYR



Annwyl Val Lloyd AC,

Deiseb P-03-124 :: Cysgliad

Diolch yn fawr am eich llythyr, dyddiedig 20 Mehefin, ynghylch y ddeiseb a ystyriwyd gennych yn ddiweddar yn y Pwyllgor Deisebau.

Mae *Cysgliad* yn feddalwedd poblogaidd sy'n cynnwys gwirydd gramadeg a sillafu Cymraeg yn ogystal â geiriadur electronig cynhwysfawr Cymraeg a Saesneg. Y mae cannoedd o ddefnyddwyr cartref ac mewn swyddfeydd yn tystio bod y meddalwedd yn eu galluogi i weithio'n hyderus trwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg.

Mae *Cysgliad* yn cael ei ddatblygu gan Uned Technolegau Iaith, Canolfan Bedwyr ym Mhrifysgol Bangor. Gan fod yr uned honno yn un gwbl hunan-gyllidol, y mae'n ddibynnol ar incwm o werthiant y meddalwedd i gyflogi staff i gynnig cefnogaeth dechnegol i'r meddalwedd ac i weithio ar ei ddatblygu ymhellach.

Mae'r ddeiseb yn cyfeirio at y ffaith fod fersiwn rhad-ac-am-ddim wedi'i ryddhau'n ddiweddar ar gyfer cyfrifiaduron Mac. Roedd hynny'n un o amodau'r grant a ddyfarnwyd gan Fwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg ar gyfer y prosiect penodol hwnnw. Mae'n werth nodi, fodd bynnag, fod y fersiwn Mac yn cael ei gynnig heb unrhyw gefnogaeth dechnegol nac unrhyw addewid i'w ddatblygu ymhellach.

O ran y ddeiseb felly, er y byddem yn cytuno y byddai gallu cynnig *Cysgliad* yn rhad-ac-am-ddim i bob cartref yng Nghymru yn gyfraniad gwirioneddol werthfawr at gyflawni nod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o greu "*cenedl wirioneddol ddwyieithog*" (*Iaith Pawb*), ni fyddai modd i Ganolfan Bedwyr hwyluso hynny heb nawdd i sicrhau cyflogaeth yr uned sy'n gyfrifol am y gwaith. Yn naturiol, fe fyddem yn croesawu unrhyw drafodaethau i'r perwyl hwnnw.

Os oes unrhyw gwestiynau pellach yn codi o'r ymateb hwn, fe fyddwn yn hapus iawn i geisio eu hateb.

Yn gywir,

Translation of letter from Canolfan Bedwyr

Dear Val Lloyd AM

Thank you very much for your letter, dated 20 June, regarding the petition and your consideration of it in the Petitions Committee recently.

Cysgliad is popular software that includes a spelling and grammar checker, as well as a comprehensive electronic Welsh and English dictionary. There are hundreds of home users and businesses that testify that the software enables them to work confidently through the medium of Welsh.

Cysgliad is developed by the Language Technology Unit, Canolfan Bedwyr, in Bangor University. As this unit is entirely self-financing, it is dependent on income from the sale of software to pay staff to provide the technical support for the software and to develop it further.

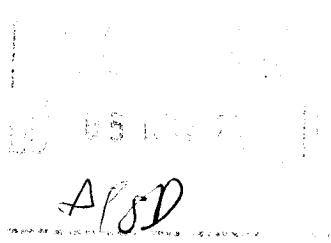
The petition refers to the fact that a free version has been released recently for Mac computers. This was one of the conditions of the grant awarded by the Welsh Language Board for that specific project. It is worth noting that the Mac version is offered without any technical support or any promise of further development.

In terms of the petition, though we agree that providing Cysgliad for free to every home in Wales would be a truly valuable contribution to achieving the Assembly Government's goal of creating a 'truly bilingual nation' (*Iaith Pawb*), Canolfan Bedwyr does not have the means to facilitate that without financial backing to secure the employment of the unit that is responsible for the work. Naturally, we would welcome any discussion to that end.

If any further questions arise from this reply, I would be very happy to attempt to answer them.

Letter from Minister for Heritage #1

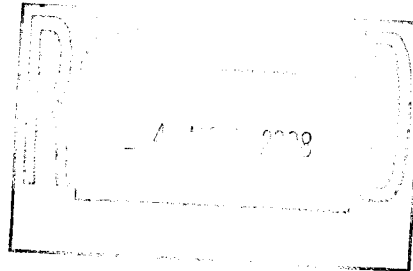
Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref PET-03-124
Ein cyf/Our ref AJ/00269/08

Val Lloyd AM
Petitions Committee
National Assembly For Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



4 November 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter dated 14 October regarding funding Canolfan Bedwyr to produce a free version of Cysgliad. My officials are currently in discussions with Welsh Language Board colleagues, and I will report back to you in due course with any further update on this matter.

Yours sincerely,

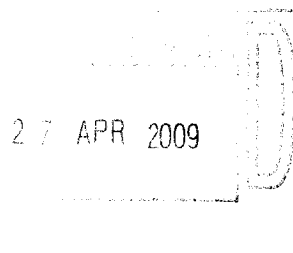
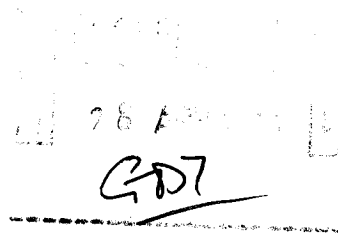
Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth/Minister for Heritage

Letter from Minister for Heritage #2

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref AJ/00262/09

Val Lloyd AM
Chair Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA



20 April 2008

Dear Val,

Thank you for your letter, dated 1 April 2009, regarding the petition for making the Windows version of the Cysgliad Welsh dictionary/thesaurus available for free download. It is my understanding that the petitioners' wishes are based on the fact that a Macintosh version of Cysgliad is available for free download, but not a Windows version. Obviously, the situation is causing some confusion, and the best result for the wellbeing of the Welsh language would be for all versions to be available for free download.

My officials have discussed this issue with the Welsh Language Board. The situation is an historical one, that will be solved with each new technological grant. The Board's strategy for Language Technology (2006) notes the need for each IT development that receives financial assistance from the Board to be made available freely (including individual components). The Macintosh version of Cysgliad was funded after this date, but grants were awarded for the Windows version prior to this date. In future, if grants were awarded by the Board to develop Cysgliad (Windows or Macintosh), the products would have to be made available freely.

Of course, this does not solve the current issue. Officials from the Board have held discussions with Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University, creators of Cysgliad (Windows) to explore the possibility of releasing the present version for free. The terms offered were more than the funding available. Canolfan Bedwyr were also not in a position to release the network version of Cysgliad Windows for free nor the individual components, so that other software developers could benefit from the work undertaken using the Government's grant, namely to promote the Welsh language.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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The Welsh Language Board will continue to discuss this issue with Canolfan Bedwyr. In the meantime, any future financial assistance from the Board towards further development of Cysgliad (and any other IT product) will guarantee that it is made available for free download under an appropriate licence.

Yours sincerely,

Alun Ffred

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM

Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth/Minister for Heritage

Letter from Canolfan Bedwyr #2
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Dr Llion Jones

Cyfarwyddwr • Director

10 Rhagfyr 2009

10 Rhagfyr 2009

Annwyl Val Lloyd AC,

Par: Deiseb Cysgliad am Ddim

Diolch yn fawr am eich llythyr, dyddiedig 8 Rhagfyr 2009 yn holi am fy ymateb i'ch llythyr cynharach, dyddiedig 5 Mehefin.

Fel y gwelwch o'r ohebiaeth atodedig, fe anfonais yr ymateb hwnnw atoch (wedi'i gopïo i'r Gweinidog dros Treftadaeth) ym mis Gorffennaf eleni.

Gobeithio y bydd cynnwys y llythyr hwnnw o gymorth i'r Pwyllgor wrth geisio ymateb i gynnwys y ddeiseb. Os oes unrhyw gwestiynau pellach yn codi, fe fyddwn yn hapus iawn i geisio eu hateb.

Yn gywir,

c.c. Alun Ffred Jones AC
Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth

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Dr Llion Jones

Cyfarwyddwr • Director

8 Gorffennaf 2009

Annwyl Val Lloyd AC,

Par: Deiseb Cysgliad am Ddim

Diolch yn fawr am eich llythyr, dyddiedig 5 Mehefin, ynghylch y ddeiseb uchod. Diolch hefyd am y copi o lythyr y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth mewn perthynas â'r un ddeiseb.

Mewn ymateb i gais y Pwyllgor Deisebau am fanylion y telerau a gynigiwyd i Fwrdd yr Iaith er mwyn ein galluogi i gynnig **Cysgliad** am ddim i ddefnyddwyr cartref, nodaf i mi ysgrifennu at Dr Jeremy Evas, Bwrdd yr Iaith Gymraeg (3 Tachwedd 2008) yn mynegi ein dymuniad i hwyluso cynnig **Cysgliad Cartref** i'w lwytho i lawr am ddim, dim ond i Fwrdd yr Iaith ein digolledu am y golled ariannol o ran gwerthiant yn sgil hynny. Yr arian gwerthiant hwn sydd yn ein galluogi i barhau i ddatblygu'r fersiwn cartref ymhellach a'n galluogi i gynnig gwasanaeth cefnogaeth llawn. (Mae'n debyg y byddai'r angen am wasanaeth o'r fath yn cynyddu'n sylweddol pe darperid fersiwn am ddim). Er mawr siom i ni, gwrthodwyd ein cynnig gan y Bwrdd.

O ystyried y cyfraniad sylweddol y gallai cynnig **Cysgliad** am ddim i bob cartref yng Nghymru ei wneud tuag at gyflawni nod Llywodraeth y Cynulliad o greu "*cenedl wirioneddol ddwyieithog*", rydym yn credu bod y telerau a gynigiwyd yn rhoi gwerth arbennig am arian. Yn bwysicach, y maent hefyd yn fodd o sicrhau y bydd y feddalwedd yn parhau i gael ei datblygu i'r dyfodol a chefnogaeth yn parhau i gael ei chynnig i ddefnyddwyr y feddalwedd.

Yng nghyswllt llythyr y Gweinidog, y mae'n deg cywiro'r camargraff mai Bwrdd yr Iaith yn unig a fu'n gyfrifol am ariannu **Cysgliad** ar gyfer Windows. Mae'r gwaith o ddatblygu **Cysill** a **Cysgeir** (y ddwy raglen sy'n rhan o **Cysgliad**) wedi bod ar droed ym Mhrifysgol Bangor ers 1993, ac er bod y Brifysgol wedi derbyn grantiau gan y Bwrdd i ariannu elfennau o'r gwaith dros y blynyddoedd, y mae'n deg nodi fod y grantiau hynny yn cynrychioli canran cymharol fechan o'r buddsoddiad a wnaed yn y project cyfan.

Ers lansio **Cysgliad** yn 2004 y mae Prifysgol Bangor wedi parhau i gynnal a datblygu'r pecyn gan ariannu'r gwaith yn llwyr o werthiant y feddalwedd, heb unrhyw draul ar y pwrs cyhoeddus. Oni bai am y buddsoddiad sylweddol hwn, byddai sylfaen cod **Cysgliad** wedi dyddio, ac ni fyddai bellach yn gweithio'n foddhaol gyda meddalwedd

ddiweddaraf Microsoft. Y mae hyn yn annibynnol ar y gwelliannau a wnaed o ran deunydd ieithyddol y rhaglenni sy'n rhan o **Cysgliad**, sy'n cynnwys ychwanegu geiriau Cymraeg newydd, enwau personol, gwella'r rheolau gramadeg yn **Cysill**, ac ychwanegu nifer o eiriaduron newydd i **Cysgeir**. Mae ein gwasanaeth dyddiol yn cefnogi **Cysgliad**, ar e-bost ac ar y ffôn, hefyd yn hynod o brysur, ac yn cael ei ariannu'n llwyr gan Brifysgol Bangor.

Camarweiniol hefyd yw'r awgrym yn llythyr y Gweinidog nad yw Canolfan Bedwyr mewn sefyllfa i ryddhau cydrannau unigol **Cysgliad** ar gyfer datblygwyr meddalwedd. Dyfynnaf o'm llythyr at Dr Jeremy Evas:

Rhyddhau Cydrannau Cysgliad

Rydym yn teimlo bod angen trafodaeth lawn gyda'r Bwrdd ar hyn er mwyn cael eglurder llwyr ar yr hyn a fyddai'n cael ei ryddhau a'r defnydd a fyddai'n cael ei wneud ohono. O ran egwyddor, fodd bynnag, fe fyddem yn hapus i ryddhau modiwlau/cydrannau unigol Cysgliad am ddim i ddatblygwyr eraill.

Yn hyn oll, fe garwn bwysleisio fod Canolfan Bedwyr, yn unol â'i chenhadaeth, yn awyddus iawn i ganfod ffyrdd cynaliadwy o rannu ei gwasanaethau a'i harbenigedd. Un arwydd clir o hynny yw'r ffaith y byddwn yn lansio **Cysill Ar-lein** yn yr Eisteddfod Genedlaethol eleni (gw. fersiwn Beta ar <http://www.cysgliad.com/cysill/arlein>). Bydd y fersiwn cyfyngedig hwn o'r gwirydd sillafu a gramadeg yn galluogi defnyddwyr i wirio darnau byr o destun ar y we yn rhad-ac-am-ddim. Efallai y dylid ychwanegu bod y datblygiad cyffrous hwn yn cael ei ariannu yn gyfan-gwbl trwy werthiant trwyddedau.

Gobeithio y bydd y sylwadau hyn o gymorth i'r Pwyllgor wrth geisio ymateb i gynnwys y ddeiseb. Os oes unrhyw gwestiynau pellach yn codi o'r llythyr hwn, fe fyddwn yn hapus iawn i geisio eu hateb.

Yn gywir,



c.c. Alun Ffred Jones AC
Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth

Canolfan Bedwyr
Prifysgol Bangor / Bangor University
Safle'r Normal / Normal Site
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LL57 2PZ

10 December 2009

Dear Val Lloyd AM,

Re: Petition to provide Cysgliad for free

Thank you very much for your letter dated 8 December 2009, asking for my response to your earlier letter, dated 5 June.

As you can see from the attached correspondence, I sent this response to you (copied to the Minster for Heritage) in July this year.

I hope that the content of that letter will be of assistance to the Committee in responding to the petition. If you have any further questions, I would be happy to answer them.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Llion Jones
Director

c.c. Alun Ffred Jones AM
The Minster for Heritage

Canolfan Bedwyr
Prifysgol Bangor / Bangor University
Safle'r Normal / Normal Site
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LL57 2PZ

8 July 2009

Dear Val Lloyd AM,

Re: Petition to provide Cysgliad for free

Thank you for your letter, dated 5 June, regarding the above petition. Thank you also for providing a copy of the letter from the Minister for Heritage in relation to the petition.

In responding to the Petitions Committee's request for details on the terms offered to the Welsh Language Board in order to enable us to provide *Cysgliad* for free to home users, I wrote to Dr Jeremy Evas at the Welsh Language Board (3 November 2008) expressing our wish to facilitate free downloading of *Cysgliad Cartref* (Cysgliad for Home), on the condition that the Welsh Language Board compensate us financially for the loss of sales incurred. It is this income from sales that allows us to continue to further develop the home version and that allows us to provide the full support service. (It is likely that the need for such a service would increase significantly if a free version were provided). To our great disappointment, our offer was rejected by the Welsh Language Board.

Considering the significant contribution that offering *Cysgliad* for free to every home in Wales could make in fulfilling the Assembly Government's goal of creating a truly bilingual Wales, we believe that the terms that were offered represent good value for money. More importantly, they are also a way of ensuring that the software will be developed in future, along with support for users of the software.

In the context of the Minister's letter, it is appropriate to correct a misconception that the Welsh Language Board alone was responsible for funding *Cysgliad* for Windows. The work of developing *Cysill* and *Cysgeir* (the two programmes that form *Cysgliad*) has been ongoing since 1993, and although the University has received grants from the Board to fund elements of this work over the years, it is fair to note that those grants represent a comparatively small percentage of the investment made in the whole project.

Since *Cysgliad* was launched in 2004, Bangor University has continued to maintain and develop the package solely through income from selling the software, without any burden on the public purse. Without this substantial investment, *Cysgliad's* code base would have dated, and would no longer be compatible with Microsoft's latest software. This is independent of the improvements made to the linguistic content of the programmes that comprise *Cysgliad*. These include adding new Welsh words, personal nouns, improving *Cysill's* grammar rules, and adding many new dictionaries

to *Cysgeir*. Our day-to-day *Cysgliad* support service, provided by e-mail and over the phone, is also very busy and is funded wholly by Bangor University.

The suggestion in the Minister's letter that Canolfan Bedwyr is not in a position to release the individual components of *Cysgliad* to software developers, is also misleading. I quote from my letter to Dr Jeremy Evas:

Releasing Cysgliad Components

We feel that there is a need for a full discussion with the Board on this in order to get complete clarity on what would be released and the use that would be made of them. However, in principle, we would be happy to release individual modules/components of Cysgliad for free to other developers.

I would like to emphasise that Canolfan Bedwyr, in line with its mission, is keen to find sustainable ways of sharing its services and expertise. One clear sign of that is the fact that we will be launching *Cysill Ar-lein* (Online) at this year's National Eisteddfod (see a Beta version at <http://www.cysgliad.com/cysill/arlein>). This limited version of the spelling and grammar checker will enable users to check short texts for free on the web. Maybe I should add that this exciting new development is being funded wholly by license sales.

I hope that these comments will be of assistance to the Committee in attempting to respond to the petition. If you have any further questions arising from the letter, I would be happy to answer them.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Llion Jones
Director

c.c. Alun Ffred Jones AM
The Minister for Heritage



BWRDD YR IAITH
GYMRAEG • WELSH
LANGUAGE BOARD

23/08/2010

Christine Chapman AC
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau
Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Bae Caerdydd
CAERDYDD
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Annwyl Mrs Chapman,

Eich cyf: P-03-124

DEISEB: CYSGLIAD

Ysgrifennaf atoch er mwyn ymateb i'r llythyr uchod (dyddiedig 3/2/2010). Wedi derbyn eich llythyr gwreiddiol bu swyddogion y Bwrdd mewn cyswllt â swyddogion Pwyllgor Deisebau Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru yn nodi y byddai ymateb yn cael ei anfon atoch maes o law. Dyma anfon yr ymateb hwnnw atoch.

Yn gyntaf oll, ymddiheuriadau na dderbynioch ymateb ynghynt. Mae hyn oherwydd ein bod wedi gorfod ystyried sefyllfa ariannol y Bwrdd yn wyneb yr hinsawdd economaidd sydd ohoni, ac yn bennaf oherwydd trafodaethau hir sydd wedi bod ar y gweill er mwyn sefydlu Corff Cydlynu Safoni Termau arfaethedig. Bydd Canolfan Bedwyr yn rhanddeiliad amlwg iawn yn y Corff Cydlynu. Mae'r argymhellion a anfonwyd at y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth yn nodi'r angen am drafodaethau pellach rhwng adrannau Llywodraeth y Cynulliad a gynrychiolid ar Bwyllgor Rheoli'r Corff Cydlynu, er mwyn gwella'r drefn o gydlynu gwariant rhyngddynt yn y maes unwaith y sefydlid y Corff Cydlynu Safoni Termau.

O ran athroniaeth y Bwrdd ym maes Technoleg iaith, nid oes dim wedi newid ers i'r Gweinidog ysgrifennu at Val Lloyd, pan oedd hithau'n Gadeirydd y Pwyllgor Deisebau (Cyf: AJ/00262/09). Rydym yn dal i fod o'r farn gref y dylai pob cynnyrch technoleg iaith a ariennir o goffrau'r wladwriaeth (gan ba gorff ariannu bynnag) fod ar gael yn rhad ac am ddim i bawb, gan gynnwys y cydrannau unigol lle bo hynny'n bosibl.

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Enghraifft dda o hyn yw Llais Synthetig Cymraeg yr RNIB a lanswyd yn ystod Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Glyn Ebwy yn gynharach y mis hwn. Noddwyd y llais yn rhannol gan Lywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru. Bydd y llais ar gael yn rhad ac am ddim i bob corff gwirfoddol, i bob corff a chanddo gynllun iaith, ac i bob corff a ddaw o dan gwmpas y ddeddfwriaeth ieithyddol sydd eto i'w phasio. Yn ddelfrydol hoffem fod ar dir i sicrhau bod Cysgliad (fersiwn Windows) ar gael yn eang ac yn rhydd hefyd.

Yn anffodus, mae'r sefyllfa hanesyddol ddryslyd yn parhau yng nghyd-destun Cysgliad. Mae'r fersiwn Macintosh a ariannwyd gan y Bwrdd yn unol â'r athroniaeth uchod (a amlinellir yn ein Strategaeth TG [2006]) ar gael yn rhad ac am ddim, ond rhaid talu am fersiwn Windows, a gomisiynwyd gan y Bwrdd ddiwedd yr 1980au, ac a gafodd ei wella gyda grant gan y Bwrdd. Rhaid pwysleisio hefyd bod Prifysgol Bangor wedi buddsoddi'n sylweddol yn y cynnyrch hwn. Trosglwyddwyd hawlfraint gwahanol gydrannau Cysgliad i Brifysgol Bangor cyn 2006 ar sail cyngor cyfreithiol a dderbyniodd y Bwrdd gan ei gyfreithwyr.

Fel y gwyddoch, bu trafodaethau rhwng y Bwrdd a Chanolfan Bedwyr er mwyn gweld a fyddai modd rhoi athroniaeth meddalwedd rydd ar waith yng nghyd-destun fersiwn Windows Cysgliad. Roedd y trafodaethau hynny'n adeiladol tu hwnt a dymunaf ddiolch i Ganolfan Bedwyr am eu parodrwydd i gydweithredu. Yn y lle cyntaf ceisiwyd sefydlu beth fyddai cost y fersiwn rataf a fyddai ar gael ar gyfer unigolion a theuluoedd sef fersiwn cartref Windows. Canlyniad y trafodaethau oedd y *byddai* Canolfan Bedwyr yn fodlon rhyddhau'r fersiwn **cartref** o Cysgliad am ffi flynyddol o £60,000 a hynny yn fytholbarhaus. Rydym yn cydnabod yr angen i gynnal arbenigedd Canolfan Bedwyr a'u hangen am incwm sefydlog yn deillio o werthu trwyddedau Cysgliad ond yn anffodus, nid oes modd i'r Bwrdd osod contractau nad oes iddynt derfyn, hyd yn oed pe bai'r gyllideb ar gael gennym i wneud hynny. Gan fod yr holl sector cyhoeddus yn wynebu toriadau ariannol llym dros y blynyddoedd nesaf, byddai'n annidwyll ohonom i barhau â thrafodaeth o'r fath a ninnau'n gwybod nad yw'r cyllid yn debygol o fod gennym i'w hanrhydeddu. O'r herwydd nid aethom ati i drafod pris rhyddhau trwyddedau fersiwn rhwydwaith Cysgliad.

O ystyried bod *Cysgliad* o gystal safon a'i fod wedi hen ennill ei blwyf, nid yw'r Bwrdd yn dymuno creu gwirydd gramadeg newydd ar hyn o bryd, yn arbennig o ystyried bod yr un cyfredol wedi derbyn cymaint o nawdd cyhoeddus dros y blynyddoedd. Yn ein hymateb i *Dweud eich dweud* (galwad Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru am fewnbwn i'w Strategaeth Iaith newydd), pwysleisiom yr angen i drosglwyddo athroniaeth meddalwedd rydd i'r strwythur newydd a fydd yn hybu'r iaith yng Nghymru o ganlyniad i gytundeb *Cymru'n Un*. Rydym yn edrych ymlaen at gynorthwyo i roi'r strwythur hwnnw ar waith.

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Disgwylir penderfyniad gan y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth ynghylch ffurf a siâp y Corff Cydlynu Safoni Termau arfaethedig a'n gobaith yw y bydd materion megis sicrhau offer gwirio sillafu a gramadeg yn rhad ac am ddim yn rhan greiddiol o agenda'r Corff. Yn y bôn, mae'r offer hyn yn bodoli i gynorthwyo pobl i greu cynnwys yn Gymraeg. Gyda hyder nifer o siaradwyr Cymraeg yn eu sgiliau iaith yn is na'u hyder yn Saesneg, mae offer o'r fath yn hollbwysig i hybu'r Gymraeg. Mae'n siŵr gen i mai'r ffordd orau o fwrw'r drafodaeth bwysig hon yn ei blaen yw drwy'r Corff Cydlynu Safoni Termau arfaethedig.

Yr eiddoch yn gywir,

MEIRION PRYS JONES

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23/08/2010

Christine Chapman AM
Chair of the Petitions Committee
The National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1NA

Dear Mrs Chapman,

Your ref: P-03-124

PETITION: CYSGLIAD

I write to you in response to the above letter (dated 3/2/2010). After receiving your original letter, officials at the Board got in touch with officials at the National Assembly for Wales's Petitions Committee to say that a response would be sent in due course. This letter constitutes that response.

First, apologies that you did not receive a response earlier. This is because we have had to consider the Board's financial situation in light of the current economic climate, and primarily because of the lengthy discussions that have been taking place to establish the proposed Liaison Body for the Standardisation of Terms. Canolfan Bedwyr will be a key stakeholder of the Liaison Body. The recommendations that were sent to the Minister for Heritage noted the need for further discussions between the Assembly Government departments that were represented on the Liaison Body Committee, in order to improve the way that funding is coordinated between them in the area, once the Body is established.

As regards the Board's philosophy in the field of language technology, nothing has changed since the Minister wrote to Val Lloyd when she was Chair of the Petitions Committee (Ref: AJ/00262/09). We are still very much of the opinion that all language technology products that are funded by the state (through whichever funding body) should be available free of charge to all, including the products' individual components, where possible.

A good example of this is the RNIB's Welsh Synthetic Voice, which was launched during the National Eisteddfod at Ebbw Vale earlier this month. The voice was partly funded by the Welsh Assembly Government. It will be available free of charge to all voluntary bodies, all bodies that have a language scheme in place, and to all bodies that will fall within the scope of the language legislation that is yet to be passed. Ideally, we would like to be in a position to ensure that Cysgliad (the Windows version) is also widely and freely available.

Unfortunately, the confusing historical situation of Cysgliad remains. The Macintosh version that was funded by the Board has been provided in line with the philosophy above (as outlined in our IT Strategy [2006]) and is available for free, but there is a charge for the Windows version, that was *commissioned* by the Board at the end of the 1980s, and that was upgraded by a Board grant. It should also be emphasised that Bangor University has also invested significantly in this product. The copyright to the

various components of Cysgliad was transferred to Bangor University before 2006 following legal advice that the Board was given by its lawyers.

As you know, there have been discussions between the Board and Canolfan Bedwyr to see whether there was a way of ensuring that the free software philosophy could be applied in the context of the Windows version of Cysgliad. These were very constructive discussions and I would like to thank Canolfan Bedwyr for its willingness to co-operate. First, we tried to establish what would be the cost of the cheapest version that would be available to individuals and families—namely, the home version of Windows. The outcome of the discussions was that Canolfan Bedwyr *would* be willing to release the **home** version of Cysgliad for an annual fee of £60,000 in perpetuity. We recognise the need to maintain the expertise of Canolfan Bedwyr and of its need to have a steady income stream from selling Cysgliad licences, but, unfortunately, the Board cannot commit to contracts with no time limitations on them, even if we had the budget to do so. As the whole of the public sector is facing stringent cuts over the coming years, it would be disingenuous of us to continue such a discussion, knowing that we will probably not have the funding to honour it. Because of this, we did not go on to discuss the cost of releasing licences for the network version of Cysgliad.

Considering that *Cysgliad* is of such high standard and so well established by now, the board does not wish to create a new grammar checker at present, especially considering that the present one has received so much public funding over the years. In our response to *Dweud eich dweud* (the Welsh Assembly Government's call for input into the new Welsh language strategy), we emphasised the need to incorporate the free software philosophy within the new system of promoting the Welsh language that would emanate from the *One Wales* agreement. We look forward to assisting the implementation of that system.

We await the Minister for Heritage's decision on the shape and form of the proposed Liaison Body for the Standardisation of Terms, and hope that issues such as free spelling and grammar checking software will be a core element of the Body's agenda. Essentially, this software exists to assist people to create Welsh content. As many Welsh speakers have less confidence in their Welsh language skills than their English language skills, such software is critical to promote the language. I am sure that the proposed Liaison Body for the Standardisation of Terms is the best way to move forward that discussion.

Yours sincerely,

MEIRION PRYS JONES

Chief Executive

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth
Minister for Heritage



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-124
Ein cyf/Our ref AFJ/00043/11

Christine Chapman AM

committee.business@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

Dear Christine,

16 February 2011

Thank you for your letter dated 14 January in relation to Cysgliad.

The Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011, which received Royal Approval on 9 February, provides for the abolition of the Welsh Language Board and the transfer of its functions to the Welsh Language Commissioner or, in terms of functions to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh, to the Welsh Language Commissioner and / or the Welsh Ministers.

On 8 February I announced details of the Board activities which will transfer to the Welsh Language Commissioner and those which will be part of an extended Welsh Language Unit within the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Board's current responsibilities in relation to terminology and translation will be transferred to the Commissioner. Therefore the proposed co-ordinating body to standardise terms and place names will be located within the office of the Welsh Language Commissioner when established.

The consultation on the new Welsh Language Strategy closed on 4 February. My officials are currently considering the responses. We will then be in a position to provide further details about the impact of the actions included in the Strategy on the issues raised in the Petition.

I hope that this information will be useful to you and Committee members.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alun Ffred'.

Alun Ffred Jones AC/AM
Y Gweinidog dros Dreftadaeth/Minister for Heritage