

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/00152/13

William Powell AM
Chair
Petitions Committee
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

18 February 2013

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 6 February regarding the ongoing petition P – 04 – 322 and the ecclesiastical exemption Task and Finish Group.

You have asked me to ensure that independent churches are involved in the Task and Finish Group. The primary focus of the group is to consider the future of ecclesiastical exemption in Wales. The basis for ecclesiastical exemption is that each of the six approved denominations in Wales has in place internal processes which provide a measure of scrutiny over proposed works to listed buildings at least as good as the equivalent secular controls operated through local planning authorities. Independent churches, by their very nature, are not able to fulfil this requirement and are therefore not subject to ecclesiastical exemption. However, as discussions progress beyond ecclesiastical exemption to consider wider issues related to the decline in listed places of worship in active use, my officials will contact the Evangelical Church organisations the petitioner has suggested.

The Task and Finish Group was due to meet in January but the meeting had to be postponed due to the severe weather conditions. It has now been rearranged for early March. At this early stage it is not possible to give an indication of timescales for the work of the group, however, I will keep the Committee informed as the discussions progress.

Yours sincerely

Huw Lewis AC / AM
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Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage

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Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

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