

Ken Skates AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-617  
Ein cyf/Our ref KS/00506/15

William Powell AM  
Assembly Member for Mid & West Wales  
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29 April 2015

Dear William,

Thank you for your letter of 22 April regarding the petition 'Stop the hiving off of public libraries to the voluntary sector' with further comments from the original petitioner.

I wrote to all local authorities on 3 February to remind them of the recommendations of the *Expert Review of Public Libraries in Wales 2014*, and strongly encouraged them to take due consideration of the report's recommendations and other best practice when undertaking reviews of public library services.

The Welsh Government has also published research on different community managed library models and independent library trusts that are currently in operation in Wales. This research highlights the advantages and disadvantages of community managed libraries and recommends the model which offers the most sustainable and comprehensive service for the public. This report has been disseminated to all local authorities in Wales via the Welsh Local Government Association and the Society of Chief Librarians Wales and is also available on the Welsh Government website.

In addition, my officials are undertaking research on possible future models for the Welsh public library service and I anticipate that this work will lead into planning the future strategy for libraries in Wales. Guidance regarding the inclusion of community managed libraries within the Welsh Public Library Standards will be issued shortly. I anticipate that this guidance will enable a consistent approach to be adopted across Wales in establishing a productive relationship between local authorities and community managed libraries.

I would therefore like to reassure the Petitions Committee and the original petitioner that I am fully committed to libraries in Wales and to ensuring they continue to play a central role in communities, helping to tackle poverty, contribute towards learning and literacy and enhance social and economic well-being.

Yours ever,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

**Ken Skates AC / AM**

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