

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



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-04-405
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/05895/12

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

3 July 2012

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 27 June on behalf of the Petitions Committee regarding the Medieval manuscript *The Laws of Hywel Dda*, that is being auctioned at Sotheby's on 10 July.

I note the interest shown by the petitioners regarding the sale of this rare example of a mediaeval Welsh manuscript. I am pleased to inform you that the Welsh Government, through CyMAL: Museums Archives and Libraries Wales, is supporting the efforts of the National Library of Wales to secure funding to bid for this item at auction. The National Library is in discussions with a number of potential contributors to secure the necessary funding. The Welsh Government has earmarked a potential contribution if the Library is successful in its bid.

In response to press enquiries, the National Library and Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales have declined to comment on whether they are interested in purchasing the manuscript. This approach has been taken in order to avoid the potential price inflation which could be caused if interest in the manuscript is openly displayed by a national institution. As a consequence, I would be grateful if you would not publicise the National Library's interest in the purchase of the manuscript until after the auction on 10 July has taken place.

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

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