

# **Ymgynghoriad cyhoeddus ar Wasanaethau Dwyieithog cyn y broses ddeddfu**

**Tystiolaeth gan Ray Cantwell**

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Dear Sir/Madam

Comments on the draft Bilingual Service Scheme

The inhabitants of Wales have received very little information about the about the Bilingual Services Scheme.

It has been so poorly advertised that I know very few people who are aware of its existence. This obviously suits those politicians and Welsh nationalists who wish to make the National Assembly “ a truly bilingual institution” which would ensure the creation of jobs for the Welsh speaking minority whilst leaving the English speaking majority out in the cold as is the case in other Welsh institutions. This would be achieved at a vast cost with once again English taxpayers footing the bill!

If politicians truly wish to reflect the views of the majority on such an important issue a simple solution would be to consult their constituents through a referendum.

I have a knowledge of Welsh and I have seen at first hand the financial implications of forcing the language into the curriculum in Wales. Since the nineties great sums of money have been spent on its implementation with small positive outcomes. At secondary level the imposition of the language upon those who are forced to study it has done the language no favours and created much resentment and contributed to the subsequent decline of modern languages which are so vital for any nation to survive in the modern world. Our world ranking in secondary education is a scandal.

The international list of the best two hundred universities worldwide does not include one Welsh University.

As a region which more and more links national identity with the ability to speak Welsh the population is in great danger of becoming more and more inward looking and nationalistic.

In the early sixties I spend some time working in Germany having studied French and German. During this time I met and talked to many Germans who had lived through the thirties and had experienced the rise of nationalism.

Sadly I see parallels and hear faint echoes of the Germany of the thirties in Wales today.

When the language police are given the powers to force firms to implement expensive bilingual proposals and create jobs for Welsh speakers what hope is there of attracting new business to boost employment.

A number of years ago I had dealings with the Welsh Language Board and it was quite obvious to me that the officials in the organisation had their own language agenda which they were pursuing with no regard to the sensibilities and views of the English speaking majority.

I see the day when a hierarchy is created in Wales in which the few exercise great powers, are guaranteed employment and by turning away talented non welsh speakers in so many jobs eventually turn Wales into truly Third World region.

Dual language adverts in the press and dual language government literature are a scandalous waste of money.

The population should have the choice of receiving all official literature in the language of their choice.

I would be grateful to receive an acknowledgement of this letter.

R.E.J. Cantwell