

Mr Richard D. Speight

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Dear Cllr Rowlinson

### **Humanist Membership of Gwynedd County Council SACRE**

I am writing to you in my capacity as Chairperson of Dyneiddwyr Bangor Humanists to invite Gwynedd County Council Standing Advisory Council on RE (SACRE) to join the majority of other such advisory councils across England & Wales and appoint a humanist as a full member to work alongside those members who represent the religious groups in our county.

We are a group of citizens, parents, grandparents, students and teachers who wish to contribute in a positive manner to the continuing development of a modern and inclusive religious literacy education for our children. Non-religious people now outnumber those with religious beliefs in Wales, and we as members of Humanists UK work in a spirit of tolerance and co-operation to promote the interests and perspectives of people of all races, nationalities, languages and political affiliations who wish to live a good and moral life without subscribing to a religious worldview.

You will be aware of the recent move by Vale of Glamorgan County Council to withdraw its decision to decline Mrs Kathy Riddick's request to join its SACRE as a humanist member. They have now chosen not to contest her claim that their original decision to exclude her unlawfully discriminates against humanists, relegating the nonreligious to a status below the religious, in the High Court.

I am therefore confident that you and your colleagues will wish welcome a humanist member onto your advisory council with full voting rights, rather than being co-opted or as an observer. We also expect that the precedent set by the Vale of Glamorgan will mean that Welsh Office Circular 10/94 cannot now be used as a pretext to refuse this request.

At the meeting of Bangor Humanists on 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2017, our group endorsed our Communications Officer, Mr Edward Pari-Jones, as our preferred humanist nominee for the Gwynedd SACRE. Mr Pari-Jones is an experience educator and parent of a child in a Gwynedd County school who has the skills, background and motivation to contribute fully and positively to the work of the SACRE.

I have copied the Leader of Cyngor Gwynedd, our Westminster MPs and Assembly Members, Mrs Riddick in her capacity as Wales Humanists national co-ordinator, and Andrew Copson, Chair of Humanists UK, so that they are aware of our request and I look forward with anticipation to your timely response.

Yours sincerely,

Richard D. Speight

Chairperson, Dyneiddwyr Bangor Humanists