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12 December 2018

Dear Garem Jackson, Cllr Paul Rowlinson

Thank you for your letter dated 27 November 2018 regarding your concerns about the lack of Welsh-medium revision materials for the new GCSE Religious Studies course.

As you may know already, publishers in England publish the English-language lesson books to support the WJEC qualifications as a commercial enterprise. Welsh Government allocates a grant to the WJEC in order to ensure that the Welsh versions are published. Neither Welsh Government nor the WJEC has any influence over the publication date of these resources nor which resources will be available as the decision to venture to create a resource or not is a matter for the publishers. However, my officers and WJEC officers work closely with the publishers who have ventured in order to ensure that the material is available as soon as possible and have put a number of new processes in place to speed things up.

The '*CBAC TGAU Astudiaethau Crefyddol Uned 2 Crefydd a Themâu Moeseg*' revision book will be available in print in February, three months after the equivalent English book was published. Once the books are available, copies will be distributed free of charge to the schools in preparation for the revision period. Publishers have also agreed to release the latest digital files of the books on the WJEC secure website to help subject teachers. These digital files are already available to teachers since the beginning of November. Also, the WJEC has developed free digital resources on its website: <http://resources.wjec.co.uk/Pages/ResourceByArgs.aspx?subId=26&lvId=2>

I have committed to improving the provision of relevant and timely resources in Welsh and English for our learners. A group of key stakeholders is looking at ways of ensuring this, bringing together the main providers in the field together with the regional education consortia. My intention is to ensure that infrastructure exists in Wales to provide resources in both languages for the curriculum and qualifications in the future.

The group will make recommendations on the way forward in spring next year.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education