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## **Research Councils UK Welsh Language Scheme**

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Institute of Physics in Wales input to  
RCUK's Welsh Language Scheme  
Consultation

A full list of the Institute's responses and  
submissions to consultations can be found  
at [www.iop.org](http://www.iop.org)

April 2012

Alexandra Saxon  
Head of Communications / Pennaeth Cyfathrebu  
Polaris House  
North Star Avenue  
Swindon  
SN2 1ET

Dear Alexandra Saxon,

### **RESEARCH COUNCILS UK WELSH LANGUAGE SCHEME**

The Institute of Physics in Wales (IOPW) welcomes the opportunity to submit input to the consultation on RCUK's Welsh Language Scheme.

We welcome the formulation of a Welsh Language Policy for Research Councils UK (RCUK) and the commitment to the increase of provision in Welsh. This policy is timely as it follows the recent announcement (March 2011) of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol<sup>1</sup>. (The Coleg's main aim is to increase, develop and broaden the range of Welsh medium study opportunities at universities in Wales.) We find the policy reasonable and acceptable in its approach and we only have a few suggestions and corrections.

If you need any further information on the points raised please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Professor Manuel Grande**

Chair of the Institute of Physics in Wales



**John Brindley**

Director, Membership and Business

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.colegcymraeg.ac.uk/en/>

## Welsh Language Policy

In point 2.3.3 (page 4) states “The Economic and Social Research Council also provides funding, in partnership with the Welsh Assembly Government...” (There are also other references to the Welsh Assembly Government on the same page.) The Welsh Assembly Government changed its name in May 2011 to the Welsh Government and therefore we suggest that references to the “Welsh Assembly Government” are changed to the “Welsh Government”. The Welsh language version of the policy should also be amended by replacing “Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru” with “Llywodraeth Cymru”.

Due to point 9.6<sup>2</sup> we suggest that the listing of current funded projects and initiatives are either included as an appendix or on a specific webpage otherwise the policy will have to be approved for changes to grants as well as for actual policy changes.

Point 6.8.1 and 7.3.1 state the arrangements for preparing and publishing advertisements for staff recruitment in Wales. We suggest that the second bullet point includes reference to Welsh-medium publications e.g. “Advertisements for posts which fluency in Welsh is a desirable qualification shall be published bilingually in English publications circulating in Wales, *Welsh only in Welsh language publications* and English in publications circulating throughout the UK.”

Point 5.4.1 and 5.4.4 seem to contradict one another. If point 5.4.4 is referring to meetings with individual members of the public we suggest that the point is rewritten to clarify the situation.

### Educational Resources

Studying Welsh is compulsory in all state funded schools in Wales, from the age of 5 -16. There has been a recent rise in the number of pupils studying physics A-level through the medium of Welsh. In 2000, eight examination centres and 43 candidates applied for WJEC A-level physics examination papers in Welsh. In 2009 that number had increased to 15 and 68 respectively<sup>3</sup>. (The total number of A-level Physics examinations sat in Wales in 2009 was 1474<sup>4</sup>.) In light of the recent increase we welcome the reference to “Resources for schools” in point 6.2.2. We know that many of the individual research councils have excellent educational resources and we strongly recommend that several of these are translated into Welsh. IOPW has close links with teachers in Wales and we would be willing to help the research councils prioritise which educational resources should be produced bilingually. Currently, the IOP has a number of resources in Welsh and is in the process of producing more.

We recommend that an email address is set-up so that members of the public, including teachers, would be able to contact RCUK directly if they would welcome a particular resource through the medium of Welsh. This would also enable RCUK to monitor the number of requests for resources in Welsh.

### Outreach Activities

We welcome the inclusion of point 4.4.1. Many organisations in Wales have successfully bid for funding from the research councils for outreach. For example in 2009, Urdd Gobaith Cymru was awarded £7,500 from the Small Awards scheme at STFC. We recommend that guidance is given to all assessors and panel members of public engagement grants, across all of the research councils, so that each assessor is fully aware of the bilingual nature of Wales when assessing proposals that contain activities which are aimed at engaging with the public in Wales.

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<sup>2</sup> “This scheme may be reviewed or amended at any time because of changes to our functions, or to the circumstances in which we undertake those functions, or for any other reason. No changes will be made to this scheme without the Welsh Language Board’s approval.”

<sup>3</sup> Nifer y canolfannau ac Ymgeiswyr yn Derbyn Fersiynau Cymraeg o Bapurau Arholiadau - TAG Uwch, Haf 2000, 2005 and 2009. (Number of centres and Candidates receiving Welsh Versions of Examination Papers – GCE Advanced, Summer 2000, 2005 and 2009.) [www.cbac.co.uk/uploads/publications/10721.pdf](http://www.cbac.co.uk/uploads/publications/10721.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Joint Council for Qualifications ([www.jcq.org.uk](http://www.jcq.org.uk))

# **IOP** | Institute of Physics in Wales | Sefydliad Ffiseg yng Nghymru

The Institute of Physics in Wales (IOPW) is part of the Institute of Physics, which is a leading scientific society promoting physics and bringing physicists together for the benefit of all. The Institute of Physics has a worldwide membership of around 40 000 comprising physicists from all sectors, as well as those with an interest in physics. It works to advance physics research, application and education; and engages with policy makers and the public to develop awareness and understanding of physics. Its publishing company, IOP Publishing, is a world leader in professional scientific communications.

IOPW has over 1000 members and it aims to promote the role of physics in society, covering education, health, the environment, and technology. Its membership is wide-ranging and multidisciplinary, including the education, industrial, medical, and general public sectors. It also seeks common purpose with other organisations to promote science and science-based learning and to influence science policy. Special emphasis is placed on supporting physics teachers by promoting in our schools the value, joy and benefits of a knowledge of physics and its applications.

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