

From: [Eleri James](#)
To: [Emma Jones](#)
Cc: [Dylan Jones](#); [Manon Davies](#)
Subject: ATB/RE: Welsh language regarding established street names
Date: 10 April 2019 11:44:40

Dear Emma,

Thank you very much for your enquiry and phone conversation. As I explained on the phone I'm afraid that we have not yet published written guidance on this specific matter. The Commissioner's work in the field of place-names is currently focussed on settlement names and the Commissioner is responsible for advising on the standard forms of town and village names in Wales. We would be very glad of the opportunity to cooperate with you on a standardisation project and would be more than willing to come and meet with you to discuss the process. If you are interested, please feel free to suggest dates and we would gladly travel to meet you.

The Commissioner follows specific standardisation guidelines when producing its recommendations: [Guidelines for Standardising Place-names in Wales](#). These guidelines deal specifically with the names of settlements and do not necessarily apply to street or house names nor other landscape features. However, they contain several valuable principles which could be applied when dealing with these names. You will notice that the seventh principle advises against the literal or whimsical translation of place-names unless there is real evidence that the form has been adopted widely by the community and become well-established. There are certainly risks attached to a pure translation exercise as the original meaning and historical significance of the names may be lost or misinterpreted. We would also not encourage the translation of street names that are currently Welsh only. However, these are only guiding principles as street names are very local matters and there may be some exceptional cases. For example, some of these streets in question may be thoroughfares and Welsh versions may already be known locally – and used by your translation unit, for example. You may be interested in reading Cardiff Council's proposed street naming policy in relation to thoroughfares. The Welsh Language Commissioner recently responded to a consultation on the proposed policy, praising its ambition of using Welsh only street names for new developments: [Response to Cardiff's proposed street naming policy](#).

It should be emphasised that the Welsh language standards do not place a duty to translate street names into Welsh in order to display it on signage if no Welsh name has been recorded in accordance with the Public Health Act 1925. County councils and county borough councils have the right to change street names (bilingual or English) for which they are responsible for naming into Welsh only ones. However, in doing so, they will have to be recorded in Welsh only with the relevant agencies and ensure that any signs display the name in Welsh only after the name has been registered.

I hope that this information will be useful to you as you consider your policy. Please don't hesitate to contact me again should you wish to discuss further.

Eleri

Dr Eleri James

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Ysgrifennwch ataf yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
Please write to me in Welsh or English

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Welsh Language Commissioner

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Correspondence welcomed in Welsh and English

welshlanguagecommissioner.org

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From: Emma Jones [<mailto:emma.jones@denbighshire.gov.uk>]

Sent: 02 April 2019 10:12

To: Postfeistr

Subject: Welsh language regarding established street names

Dear Sir/Madam

Would you be able to provide me with some guidance?

We in Denbighshire have a Street Naming and Numbering policy where new streets are named in Welsh only or bilingual, Welsh/English.

We have a local Councillor who would like English only street names within his area translated into Welsh so the street name is bilingual.

Do you have a standard or any advice on renaming existing street names bilingually where they are English only?

Kind regards

Emma

Emma Jones

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Mae'r wybodaeth a gynhwysir yn yr e-bost hwn ac unrhyw ffeiliau a drosglwyddir gydag o wedi eu bwriadu yn unig ar gyfer pwy bynnag y cyfeirir ef ato neu atynt. Os ydych wedi derbyn yr e-bost hwn drwy gamgymeriad, hysbyswch yr anfonwr ar unwaith os gwelwch yn dda. Mae cynnwys yr e-bost yn cynrychioli barn yr unigolyn(ion) a enwir uchod ac nid yw o angenrheidrwydd yn cynrychioli barn Cyngor Sir Ddinbych. Serch hynny, fel Corff Cyhoeddus, efallai y bydd angen i Gyngor Sir Ddinbych ddatgelu'r e-bost hwn [neu unrhyw ymateb iddo] dan ddarpariaethau deddfwriaethol.

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