



Matthew Wakelam
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11/03/2019

Dear Matthew Wakelam,

Street Naming Policy Consultation

I'm writing to congratulate you on the Street Naming Policy that you are currently consulting upon. I welcome your intention to give Welsh names only to streets in new developments and to establish a panel to give you expert and strategic advice as you undertake the task. I also welcome your intention to give bilingual names to the main routes into the city centre, to areas within the city centre and Cardiff Bay and I encourage you to be ambitious when creating any new Welsh names. This policy provides the perfect opportunity to coin forms which will educate users about the rich history of the Welsh language in Cardiff instead of merely translating the English forms in current circulation.

In relation to point 1.2.3 in particular, the policy would be further strengthened by including a direct reference to the Welsh Language Commissioner's responsibility to standardise Welsh Place-names and including a hyperlink to the [List of Standardised Welsh Place-names](#) published on our website. It would also be valuable to refer to the [Guidelines for Standardising Welsh Place-names](#) that guide our panel's work: although these Guidelines deal mainly with settlement names, they do include principles that are equally relevant to street and property names. In addition, some street names will include the names of other settlements or locations in Cardiff and beyond so it's important to ensure that those elements are spelt consistently. We would encourage you to reference these resources in a prominent place on your website and refer to them as part of your planning processes in order to raise developers' awareness of them. I would also like to draw your attention to the guidance section on our website that includes advice for developers and local authority officers relating to naming new development and including place-names on signage.

Including a reference to the [List of Historic Place-names](#) would also strengthen the policy further. I'm aware that several local authorities refer developers to this list early on in the

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planning process in order for them to seek suitable historic names before unsuitable marketing names start to gain currency. I should emphasise, however, that this is a list of *historic* names and that the forms will not have been standardised. We would be more than willing to advise you regarding how to represent these names in modern and standardised Welsh should you require.

I would also like to suggest that the advice in 4.6 regarding renaming properties could be strengthened by emphasising that there may be historic or linguistic significance to the existing names of properties and that you will urge people to reconsider renaming some historic names. This is common practice in some local authorities and although the problem is not as apparent in an urban area like Cardiff there is a risk that some important names could be lost. The annex to the [Historic Environment Records in Wales: Compilation and Use](#) document provides further guidance on how to consult the List of Historic Place-names when considering renaming applications. Your proposed naming panel may also be able to advise you regarding which names are of special historic significance.

I wrote to the Chief Executive in 2018 to note my eagerness to review the entries in the List of Standardised Place-names on-line for Cardiff. Indeed, it would be timely for you to ensure that they are current and correct before you start to implement this policy. Dr Eleri James, the senior officer responsible for the standardisation project, would be more than willing to discuss this further with you: eleri.james@cyg-wlc.cymru.

I look forward to learning what your next steps will be in relation to this work and I would appreciate it if you would send Eleri James an update once this policy has received the necessary approval and is in operation. We will be very interested in learning more about the implementation of the policy and its results in due course.

Yours sincerely,

Meri Huws
Welsh Language Commissioner