

Response by Cylch yr Iaith

We would like to raise a number of questions first. Some important phrases need clarification. This is followed by general comments. Finally, answers to the questionnaire are included in Annex B.

We believe that the 'Second Channel' could include the Children's Service, of which Part 2 of your paper proves an unambiguous need for, alongside an Adult Education Service (with funding aid supplied by the Assembly, possibly) and provided by Lifelong Learning Education departments of the University of Wales and the Department of Welsh, University of Wales, Aberystwyth. That department has long offered a Welsh medium external degree. Another possibility is that it could deliver services for the Welsh medium Federal College, to which the Assembly Government has now committed.

Part 1

3.1.2 (a) What is meant by "a service *primarily* aimed at Children"?

(b) What is meant by "service will be a *mainly* Welsh language service"? Does this mean that the channel will show some English language programmes?

3.4.1.3 (i) Why does a Welsh language service for Welsh speaking children need a "Welsh language policy"? Is there an intention to include guidelines justifying the use of English in the "Welsh language policy"? What is meant by "a service *primarily* aimed at Children in Wales"? And why the emphasis on being relevant "to all children in Wales"? We understand that it needs to be relevant to children who understand Welsh but not - surely - to monoglot English speakers.

3.4.1.5/6 We welcome this but would like to see more emphasis on considering the curiosity of children about the world around them, and on their intelligence. The reference to 'entertainment' and 'news programmes' as ways of fulfilling the cultural needs and interests of children is far too restrictive. We note that you refer to adapting some of S4C's documentaries. That is fine, but get rid of the English that is currently such a prominent part of some of them. We also suggest that creative talents are drawn upon, arts and crafts, for example, and attention given to artists/ sculptors/ musicians, travel reports, nature and the environment, profiles of writers/poets/ dramatists, scientific discoveries, world cultures, social history, political beliefs and ideas etc.

3.6 We hope that the principle of Regional Devolution of Programme Provision will be constantly monitored (imperative for a balanced economic development of our country). At the same time, we hope that a small number of powerful independent companies will not be allowed to monopolise the provision. Creativity (in terms of ideas and treatments) is more likely to flourish in a multi-company environment. By the way, is it not the talents of Wales that should be nurtured? ("Nurture UK Talent")

Part 2

2.1 In the light of current linguistic trends, S4C's duty as a Welsh language public service provider is to broadcast programmes in polished and untainted Welsh, with no English language content - programmes that have lively and interesting content, whether they are

watched at home or educational programmes watched at school.

Annex B (Answers)

1. Yes.

2. Not currently.

3. In terms of content and programme quality, please see our comments on 3.4.1.5/6

4. We favour Option 2, but on the condition that a way can be found of broadcasting Assembly debates, either on radio or in an evening television programme (of approximately one hour's duration) of highlights. Note that we have already suggested that Adult Education could be a part of the new service. As in 1 above, we feel it reasonable to expect the Assembly itself to meet any additional costs which could arise from this sort of provision.

5. We do not feel that we are in a position to comment on this.

6. We fail to understand why no religious institutions were included in the list. These Institutions usually have youth workers, as well as a Sunday school network which has a large number of children as members.

7. At the heart of our philosophy on Welsh language broadcasting is the principle that all programmes should be **in Welsh** and that any English that may feature in programmes should be translated into Welsh. Every broadcasting system in the world uses translations and it presents no technical problems. It is especially important to ensure that programmes for children and young people be unambiguously Welsh, and a worthy supplement to the endeavours of Welsh language teachers in our schools and of many individuals in local communities. All aspects of a Welsh Language Broadcasting Service must be considered in the light of the frailty of the language in the face of the incredible forces of Anglo-American culture. Being complacent about the increase of bilingualism in our schools does no favours with Welsh language culture. That is why we need - and why we will need - some institutions that are wholly Welsh in their activities. The Children's Service is an inherent part of the Welsh Language Broadcasting Institution.

Ieuan Wyn (Secretary) on behalf of Cylch yr Iaith