



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-04-549  
Ein cyf/Our ref: FM/00648/14

William Powell AM  
Chair Petitions Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

23 June 2014

Dear William,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 30 May seeking views on a petition to make Hen Wlad fy Nhadau the official Welsh National Anthem.

The proposal is inaccurate in some respects. Hen Wlad fy Nhadau was composed in January 1856 and its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary was marked in 2006, notably by a concert in its composers' hometown of Pontypridd, supported by the Welsh Government. Wales' victory over New Zealand took place on 16 December 1905 so its centenary was in 2005.

Following its composition in 1856, the popularity of Hen Wlad fy Nhadau increased until it became acknowledged as our national anthem, although it has no official or legal status. This is the case with all national anthems across the United Kingdom: they have no legal standing, rather their use is a matter of tradition and continued popularity.

There is no mechanism available, therefore, to the Welsh Government to designate Hen Wlad fy Nhadau as the official Welsh National Anthem. This does not detract from the national anthem status it already enjoys in practice as a result of its popularity and acceptance by the people of Wales.

Yours sincerely

**CARWYN JONES**