



PRESS RELEASE

Embargo: Immediate (September 2, 2008)

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Deputy Director for the Institute of Welsh Affairs

The Institute of Welsh Affairs today announced the appointment of Kirsty Davies as Deputy Director of Wales's leading independent think tank.

This new post has been created in order to professionalise the marketing of the IWA during a planned period of development, and to grow its individual membership and corporate support. The IWA was established in 1987 and is currently celebrating its 21st year.

Kirsty ran a successful direct marketing business for several years before embarking on a degree in philosophy as a mature student at the University of Glamorgan. Active in her local community, she is a member of Cardiff's Community Health Council and last year was elected a city councillor for the Llandaff ward.

John Osmond, Director of the Institute of Welsh Affairs, said: "We are very pleased that Kirsty Davies is joining us. The creation of this post is a sign of our confidence in the future development of the IWA. Kirsty's energy, marketing experience and instinctive grasp of the value and purpose of the IWA will be a key asset during the exciting period ahead."

Kirsty Davies said: "I'm delighted to be joining the team at such a challenging time for the IWA and for Welsh politics as a whole. As the Welsh Assembly gets more powers, and more opportunity to change and improve Wales, I look forward to helping the IWA bring its progressive ideas and proposals to a wider audience, and to broaden further its base of support."

Geraint Talfan Davies, Chairman of the Institute of Welsh Affairs said: "This is a very significant appointment for the IWA, and a positive way to mark our 21st anniversary year. It demonstrates that we intend to continue growing the contribution of the IWA to civil society in Wales, through our programme of research and publications, through the work of our branches across Wales, and through fully exploiting our online resources.

"This development has been made possible through the generous support of the Waterloo Foundation and the Esmee Fairbairn Foundation. We are very grateful to them both," he added.

Note to editors:

The Institute of Welsh Affairs is an independent think-tank that promotes quality research and informed debate aimed at making Wales a better place in which to work and live. The IWA commissions research, publishes reports and policy papers, and organises seminars and conferences across Wales.

The IWA is a membership-based body with almost 1,200 individual members and 140 corporate members, drawn from private business, and the public and voluntary sectors. It also has branches across Wales. The IWA's work embraces a range of topics including economic development, education and culture, the environment and health, and political and constitutional development.

IWA
2nd September 2008