

Agenda – Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference via Zoom	Lleu Williams
Meeting date: 16 March 2022	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.30	0300 200 6565
	SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Pre-meeting registration

(09.00–09.30)

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**
(09.30)
- 2 President of National Library of Wales pre-appointment hearing**
(09.30–10.15) (Pages 1 – 50)
- 3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from items 4, 5, 6, and 9 of today's meeting**
(10.15)
- 4 Private debrief**
(10.15–10.30)
- 5 Consideration of draft Terms of Reference for future inquiry into Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPS) and approach to joint working**
(10.30–10.50) (Pages 51 – 63)
- 6 Recent reports on internal disputes at National Museum for Wales**
(10.50–11.00) (Pages 64 – 65)

Break

(11.00–11.15)



Public

7 Inquiry into participation in sport in disadvantaged areas:

Evidence session with Sport Wales

(11.15–12.15)

(Pages 66 – 79)

Brian Davies, Interim Chief Executive Officer

Owen Hathway, Assistant Director - Insight, Policy and Public Affairs

Research brief

Written evidence from Sport Wales

8 Papers to note

(12.15)

- 8.1 Joint letter from the Minister for Economy and Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee regarding scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022–23: Culture, Communications and Sport**

(Pages 80 – 85)

- 8.2 Letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee regarding scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022–23: Welsh Language**

(Pages 86 – 94)

- 8.3 Letter from the First Minister to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee regarding scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022–23: International Relations**

(Pages 95 – 97)

- 8.4 Correspondence from Dr Caitriona Noonan regarding the closure of Young Audience Content Fund**

(Pages 98 – 100)

9 Private debrief

(12.15–12.30)

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Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Participation in Sport in Disadvantaged Areas

Sport Wales Brief ahead of Oral Inquiry

16th March 2022

Sport Wales welcomes the opportunity to provide evidence at the Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, International Relations and Sport Committee's inquiry into sport in disadvantaged areas. We believe that an **intersectional approach – driven by data**, coupled **with multi-sector policy initiatives** will extend the benefits of sport to everyone in Wales. The **Vision** for Sport in Wales is the platform for cross sector engagement in sport and physical activity and seeks to transform Wales into an active nation. **Importantly, The Vision is not just a mission for Sport Wales to work towards.** We would be happy to discuss more about The Vision for Sport in Wales with the Committee.

1. What are the main barriers to participation in sport in disadvantaged areas? How do these intersect with other factors?

Broadly, the main barriers to sport may be structural, institution, personal or social – and in almost all instances, are made up of a combination of these. These barriers impact on people from ethnic minorities, migrants, those with disabilities, elderly people, children, women and girls and people who are gender diverse and often these issues are not isolated but intersectional in their nature. Typically, communities in disadvantaged areas have a higher rate of these inequalities. Structural barriers exist when access is non-existent, limited or when the sporting environment is not suitable, or not able to be adapted to meet the needs of an individual. Institutional barriers mean that opportunities to access sport are hidden, and/or removed from an individual because of poorly designed systems; or systems that have been designed to only suit certain users. Personal and social determinants will mean as individuals begin to navigate the structural and institutional barriers – they will encounter their own unique challenges, based specifically in relation to who they are.

2. How clear a picture do we have of current participation levels in disadvantaged areas? Does the current data enable policy interventions to be effective?

We are an insight led organisation and as such - have a clear picture on the levels of participation, barriers and enablers that constitute participation in sport. Our **School Sport Survey** is the oldest and largest per-capita of its type in the world, and we are extremely proud of this innovative and world leading approach to pupil voice. Similarly, the data we collect via the **National Survey for Wales** is a robust statistical measure of motivation and habits surrounding physical activity in Wales. These are two examples of how insight drives policy intervention we advocate for. Our full written response to this inquiry includes a detailed breakdown of this data. Importantly, we also know that the lived experiences of communities and individuals will vary greatly and acknowledge the importance of bringing together qualitative experiences with statistical data.

3. How should public funding be use to increase participation in disadvantaged areas?

In addressing persistent inequality and barriers to sport participation; we assert that there are three key components to consider: **diversity of investment, diversity of opportunity**, and a **cross sector pledge** to transform Wales into an active nation through visible commitment to the Vision for Sport in Wales.

We are category unapologetic about the way we **invest** in Welsh sport and in recent years we have changed the way in which we do this. Our investment approach now varies based on who and where we are investing but is always consistent of one component - we place addressing inequality at the centre of how we use public funds. You can read about our approach to investment [here](#). **Diversity of opportunity** is a fundamental component to ensuring that people build lifelong habits to be active. This includes supporting opportunities to participate in multisport offers at a young age and, accelerating opportunities whereby sport is delivered in conjunction with another medium – such as the chance to volunteer or utilise the Welsh language. Further, providing opportunities for people to be active, should not just be the sole responsibility of the sport sector. A

cross-sector pledge to consider sport and physical activity in all policies should be a key consideration for policy makers. Our data tell us that single interventions alone, will not make a significant impact to the promotion of sport and physical activity.

4. How effective are current interventions at increasing participation in disadvantaged areas?

At Sport Wales, we are committed to celebrating the learning and successes of our partners and there is some excellent work currently being undertaken with the sport sector. Our full response showcases these via case studies from our partners – such as Street Games and the Urdd. Further, we acknowledge that it may take time to learn of the effectiveness of interventions and assert, our School Sport Survey is vitally important in understanding change over time. It should also be recognised that it is not always possible to compartmentalise the impact of sporting interventions in society with wider issues around health, crime, education, community cohesion and other contributing factors.

5. Has the pandemic caused any persistent changes to participation levels in disadvantaged areas?

At the start of the pandemic, we worked with Savanta ComRes to help initially understand the impact the pandemic has had, or was having, on activity levels. We have since understood that this polling is a useful addition to the population level data we currently collect, and, on our website, you will see that we have broken the data we obtain through this into various demographical characteristics. In 2020—21 we reported that: older adults, those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds and those with a long-standing condition or illness were persistently more likely to report doing less activity than they were before the pandemic. Our first iteration of this survey for 2022 is currently being analysed at the time of writing this response.

6. How effectively do different sectors (e.g. education and health) collaborate to improve participation in sport in disadvantaged areas?

We recognise that in recent years, there has been an impactful shift in sport and physical activity working collaboratively with other sectors. Our work attached to Healthy Weight; Healthy Wales and with Education colleagues in piloting pupils being active beyond the school day are two examples of this. We do believe however; this could go further. We think creating an opportunity for sport to be considered within other budget areas could be one method of recognising its importance and demonstrating a cross sector approach to this.

7. Are there examples of best practice, both within Wales and internationally, that Wales should learn from to increase participation in sport in disadvantaged areas?

There are four key opportunities whereby we think Wales could be world leading in addressing the complexities within this area. Much of this we are already doing and in part, is based on international best practice. Currently however, much of this is being advocated for, and delivered by sport alone. We think, cross-sector support for these will be transformative.

- Supporting the development of **Sport Partnerships** to transform the way sport is delivered at local community level – *informed by the New Zealand approach.*
- Accelerating **Wales Person Centred Approach** to sport when we talk about Welsh sport on the world stage – *a similar model has been adopted in Norway.*
- A commitment to models which promote being **Active Beyond the School Day** and opening of school facilities after hours for community use – *multiple international models.*
- Support for **Sport in All Policies** with recognition of this in cross sector budgets – *similar to the Health in All Policies commitment (Wales) and Wellbeing Budget Marker (New Zealand).*



Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair Culture, Communication, Welsh Language,
Sport and International Relations Committee

1 March 2022

Dear Delyth

Scrutiny of Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022-23: Culture, Communications and Sport

Thank you for your letter of 4 February seeking further information on a number of matters discussed during our recent evidence session on the 2022-23 draft budget. This letter provides the additional information you have sought under the same relevant subheadings.

We hope this additional information will serve to correct some of the inaccuracies in your interpretation of the evidence that was provided. A lot of time and effort by Ministers and our officials goes into the preparation of both written evidence and appearance at committee and we are disappointed that much of it seems to have been completely disregarded in favour of a less strategic and more piecemeal approach to follow-up requests from the committee.

Cultural Recovery Funding and support for freelancers

The Cultural Recovery Fund 3 requirements for the arts sector were identified by the Arts Council of Wales, based on the two previous Culture Recovery Funds and the length of time that restrictions were estimated to be in place for.

In terms of the three rounds of funding via the Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF), the budget has been broken down as follows:

- In the CRF1 we received a consequential of £53m but provided an additional £10m from the Welsh Government itself

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- In CRF2 we allocated £30m from a consequential of £24m, and an additional £6m was allocated from the Welsh Government itself
- For CRF3, the budget of £15m was provided by the Welsh Government

The £15m allocated to CRF3 was based on the demand from previous rounds, where in high level terms £60m was enough to support the sector based on 12 months of costs (CRF1), £30m was enough to support the sector based on 6 months of costs (CRF2), so based on a three month period (December to February) we agreed a £15m package. This decision has proven to be correct as to date the call on the fund has been circa £11m and we do not estimate requiring the full £15m when we close the scheme.

We do not intend to run another round of the freelancer fund as the £1k support available via the Local Authority Discretionary fund was to support the freelance community impacted by the Alert Level 2 restrictions. We continue to work in delivering the ambitions of the public sector freelancer pledge which was born out of the freelancer fund, and of course in areas like film and TV we continue to support the freelance community through our normal production funding.

Impact of Covid passes

The decision to implement a covid pass in Wales was not taken lightly and was introduced to reduce – not remove – the risk of people infected with coronavirus entering and spreading the virus at busy venues or venues that were indoors and they see large numbers of people congregating closely together for prolonged periods of time.

The Welsh Government did complete impact analysis for the introduction of the covid pass. The Summary Impact Assessment can be found at the attached link (<https://gov.wales/nhs-covid-pass-impact-assessment>) and covers the following:

- Wellbeing Impact;
- Economic Impact Assessment;
- Equality Impact Assessment;
- Children’s Rights Impact Assessment (if applicable and not sufficiently covered in the Equality Impact Assessment);
- Human Rights Impact Assessment;
- Welsh Language Impact Assessment.

The Covid Pass was an **important part of a series of measures** to mitigate the impact of Covid on our communities. On 2 December 2021, the Welsh Government’s Technical Advisory Group and its Chief Scientific Advisor on Health expressly advised that it would be “challenging” to identify the specific impact of the scheme. It is for this reason that the Welsh Ministers consider that the impact of the scheme is probably unmeasurable

For similar reasons, we do not think that it will be possible to identify the exact financial impact of introducing the covid pass in Wales. Whilst we have received anecdotal evidence of a reduction in income in the impacted sectors, no one has been able to produce evidence that can separate, other economic factors from the impact of the pass itself (such as public perception of risk of attending events, in light of covid, high profile campaigns about safety etc), or to compare the impact of the pass against other options that were available to the Government such as closure of high risk venues.

The Welsh Government notes the findings of a recent study undertaken by researchers at Bruegel and the French Council of Economic analysis which suggested that covid passes improved public health outcomes and economic performance in France, Germany and Italy.

Culture strategy

Delivery of a new culture strategy is a commitment in both our Programme for Government and the Co-operation Agreement. We will develop a culture strategy which reflects Wales in all its diversity, ensuring that the Welsh Government works strategically towards the delivery of the sixth pillar of the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015, a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, and, in so doing, engages deeply and meaningfully with the arts, culture and heritage sectors. The precise priorities of the strategy will be agreed in close consultation with our sectors. At the appropriate time we will provide an update to the Committee on the strategy's development.

The overall funding requirement to support the development and implementation of the new culture strategy will be finalised as part of our business planning process which is ongoing at present. The sponsored bodies have received new remit letters for 2021 – 2026, covering the full term of Government; these set out a clear priority to support the development and delivery of the culture strategy.

Capital funding for the National Library and National Museum

It is important that our national organisations are able to maintain safe and appropriate environments for the visiting public and for our national collections. This will continue to be a priority. Our officials worked closely with our sponsored bodies in relation to their budget requirements, and the National Library of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru have both responded positively to their draft budget allocations.

Across the Culture portfolio, we have seen a substantial increase in the capital budget, the majority of this is earmarked for four major cultural capital projects, including the Museum of North Wales, the National Contemporary Art Gallery, Theatr Clwyd and the Football Museum for Wales. Further grant funding is available for delivery of Programme for Government commitments, including decarbonisation and tackling inequalities.

The capital budgets in 2021/22 for our sponsored bodies were generous compared to previous years and included a separate £1m capital allocation for the National Library of Wales to support the National Broadcast Archive.

The multi-year settlement, as a result of the UK Spending Review was welcomed, but it did little to undo a decade of austerity. We have maximised the levers at our disposal within our limited capital settlement, but overall capital funding for the Welsh Government as a whole falls in cash terms in each year of the three year Spending Review period and is 11 per cent lower in 2024-25 than in the current year. In spite of this the capital settlements we have proposed for our sponsored bodies over this period are higher overall than pre-pandemic levels.

Our officials will continue to work closely with the sponsored bodies to address priorities for funding.

Budget expenditure for Sport

As you acknowledge in your letter, other departments within the Welsh Government support sport and physical activity programmes; the Sport BEL is only part of the funding picture.

Collaborative working across departments and budgets has been, and will continue to be, key to creating long-term and sustainable shifts in participation. Some great examples of cross-department working include the Healthy and Active Fund which supports a range of innovative projects aimed at increasing participation.

As well as our own Department over the last 3 years the Health Department have also provided funding to Sport Wales as follows:

2019/20	£1.465m
2020/21	£1.640m
2021/22	£1.606m

We have also maintained our commitment to support the modernisation and accessibility of sports facilities in communities across Wales by providing Sport Wales with a capital budget of £6.629m, which complements the £8m we invested in sports facilities over the last two years. On top of this investment, this year (21/22) we have reallocated resources and provided additional capital support of £4.5m. For the next 3 years, as you point out in your letter, we are providing £8.6m in 22/23 and £8m for the following 2 years, which is an increase of 22% for next year and 17% thereafter in the core capital funding for this year (£6.629m) and not a cut as is suggested.

We are confident Sport Wales will spend the additional £4.5m capital award within this financial year. This funding will be used invest in a number of projects across a variety of different sports to assist in meeting key Programme for Government commitments.

You also asked about the end-year carry-forward process. Our officials have regular dialogue with Sport Wales, including formal quarterly monitoring meetings, on this and many other issues; we also meet with the Sport Wales Chair and Chief Executive on a frequent basis to discuss policy priorities and progress against delivery of the remit letter and their business plan.

Remit letters and multi-year funding cycles

We completely agree that it is important to have multi-year settlements. The reason they were not possible in recent years was due to the Budget settlement with the UK Government. They are possible now and we told you in committee that these are now in place, but I will repeat again here for completeness. A Term of Government Remit Letter was issued to each body in December and we are expecting draft plans shortly. Three-year indicative budgets were shared with the sponsored bodies as part of discussions following the publication of the draft budget in December. We will move to provide these in a formal funding letter once the final budget is published. All our Arms Length Bodies have supported our approach.

Skills in the creative sector

A Creative Skills Body *Skills Action Plan* will be launched at the start of the next financial year for the screen, music and digital media sectors in Wales. Flexibility will be built into the action plan, so that the needs of the industry can be met as these evolve over time. Creative Wales will work closely with Further Education, Higher Education and other training provision to ensure that courses are targeted to industry needs.

Following the success of the *Criw Production Apprenticeship Scheme* in the screen sector, which Creative Wales supported in both North and South Wales, the three year *Skills Action Plan* will consider how similar shared apprenticeship schemes may be replicated

across other creative sectors. We have a target of 100 new apprentices within the creative sectors by 2026.

Support shall also continue to be offered to projects which address skills shortages throughout the creative sectors, both entry level and upskilling roles, as well as to transferable skills and CPD training via a new *Creative Skills Body Skills Fund* which will implement the priorities of the *Skills Action Plan*. The new Creative Skills Body Advisory Panel will regularly review the priorities outlined in the Skills Action Plan for Wales and the priorities for funding, to ensure that the training provision is targeted to the needs of the sector, to ensure priority roles can be filled.

Pay settlement in the public sector

Agreement of a pay settlement with unions and staff is a matter for the sponsored bodies. We expect our arm's length bodies to ensure that settlements are both reasonable and affordable within the grant in aid allocations that Welsh Government provides. We have recently noted pay remit proposals from a number of our sponsored bodies, who assured us they are affordable within current settlements.

You will be aware that the Welsh Government is committed to one public sector and a consistent approach to pay and pensions.

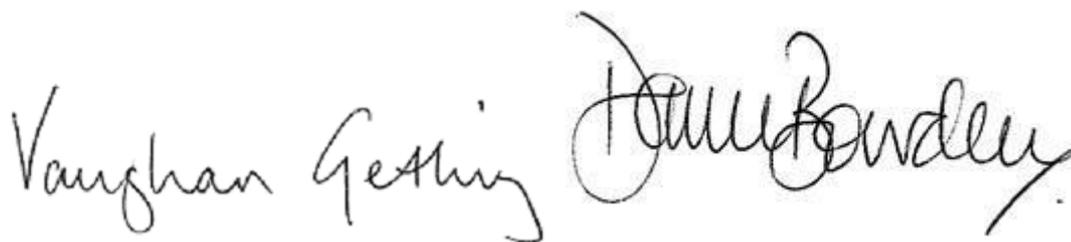
We have assisted sponsored bodies with pay and pension pressures in recent years, providing one-off sums to support these specific concerns.

Heritage scrutiny session

We would be happy to provide a technical briefing on heritage. However, heritage covers a very broad area so it would be helpful if the Committee could be more specific on the aspects that the Committee would like it to focus on.

We hope that you will find this additional information helpful.

Yours sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Vaughan Gething' and the signature on the right is 'Dawn Bowden'. Both are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a
Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief
Whip

Agenda Item 8.2

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref MA/JMEWL/4270/21

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and
International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay,
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4 March 2022

Dear Delyth

Thank you for your letter of 4 February following my evidence to the Committee on Welsh Language spending plans in the 2022-23 Draft Budget. I have set out below further detail on the information requested, some of which were raised at our session on 19 January.

Economy and the Welsh language

The Arfor Programme was funded by the Welsh Government between to pilot innovative approaches to promoting entrepreneurship, business growth, and community resilience whilst supporting the Welsh language. It has targeted support in Gwynedd, Anglesey, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire and was delivered over a two year period 2019/20 and 2020/21 by the 4 local authorities working on local and collaborative projects. As part of the programme, funding was set aside for an evaluation of the two year programme, which was undertaken by Wavehill Consulting and published in October 2021. A copy of the evaluation is attached for the Committee's information at Annex 1.

Work is being carried out on proposals for Arfor 2 programme in collaboration with the Designated Member, Cefin Campbell MS as part of the Co-operation Agreement between the Welsh Government and Plaid Cymru. We will take account of the experience and evaluation of the previous programme which is complementary to other existing or planned activity which is of relevance. As part of this work consideration will be given to developing an appropriate suite of performance measures for the programme.

Work is underway with the OECD to look at existing structures and design the best possible model for longer term institutional arrangements to be developed where local authorities across Wales can build on partnership working in pursuit of shared aims and in addressing shared challenges and opportunities together.

The main reason for establishing the Economy and Welsh Language Roundtable was to discuss the economic and linguistic challenges facing many rural areas in west Wales as a

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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consequence of the UK leaving the EU. This remit was extended as a result of COVID-19 and what the possible effects this could have on the local economy and the vibrancy of the Welsh language. The discussions of the roundtable have been broad with the main issues surrounding the challenges of outward migration and the effects this has on the long term sustainability of our rural and Welsh speaking communities. A list of action points for the group were agreed in the last meeting and can be found at Annex 2.

We are currently consulting on the Welsh Communities Housing Plan which have proposals on supporting the establishment of community-led social enterprises and co-operatives. The consultation ended on the 22 February and we will provide further information to the Committee on the interventions in due course.

Welsh-medium education

Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh

As part of our Co-operation agreement we will be investing an additional £8m by 2024-25 to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh. The total budget allocation over the three year period, as allocated in Draft Budget 2022-23, is set out below.

2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
£1.5m	£4.5m	£8.0m

In 2022-23, the Coleg will receive a total of £1.5m, based on the plans we have already received for expanding further education provision and starting suitable capacity building support among the apprenticeship providers. Up to £0.4m of the total for the year will go towards projects to support initial teacher training and higher education.

Over the coming months, officials will discuss specific plans with the Coleg and the Centre for 2023-24 and 2024-25, to achieve the aims set out in the Co-operation agreement to expand the provision of post-16 Welsh-medium apprenticeships and further education as well as providing free Welsh lessons for 16-25 year olds. We have already received a request from the Coleg for the period under review, to expand provision in the post-16 sector.

When more robust plans are in place, I will be in a position to share the details with the Committee.

Mudiad Meithrin

The Sefydлу a Symud / Set up and Succeed (SAS) programme to expand provision in the early years was established in 2017 through additional annual funding of £1m to Mudiad Meithrin. During the first 3 years of the programme Mudiad achieved its target of establishing 40 new provisions. This funding has continued in to this Senedd term with a target to expand provision by 60 new groups over 5 years.

Mudiad Meithrin commissioned its own independent evaluation of the SAS programme at the end of the first 3 years. Recommendations from this evaluation have been received and considered. In addition my officials meet regularly with Mudiad Meithrin to discuss the development of the programme and explore expansion through alternative groups. In addition to the traditional model, a Cylch Meithrin has been located within an English medium day nursery. Other groups established are Cylch Meithrin sessions offered within

English medium day nurseries, with the staff in those settings supported through Mudiad Meithrin's language immersion training programme, 'Croesi'r Bont'. These alternative groups offer the opportunity to establish provision and create demand in areas where it would be more challenging to establish traditional Cylch provision.

As confirmed at Committee, and as announced on [2 February](#), an additional £191,000 is being allocated to support Mudiad Meithrin this financial year. This includes:

- £50,000 to support Mudiad in reopening as many Cylchoedd Ti a Fi as possible in a safe manner post COVID-19 restrictions;
- £10,000 to boost work undertaken to look at the needs of ALN and the Welsh language, 10 years after publishing an independent study by an external organisation (MABIS);
- £25,000 to double the number of settings that receive "Cylch i Bawb" diversity and inclusion resource pack to support the Welsh Government's priorities under the Race Equality Action Plan, a Programme for Government commitment;
- £10,000 for production of a series of adverts to recruit staff to Cylchoedd Meithrin and the early years sector / training opportunities in regional papers and in every papur bro;
- £76,000 to support the Cam wrth Gam Schools Programme, which delivers Childcare courses through the medium of Welsh, by attracting new schools to the scheme, and enabling Mudiad Meithrin to offer financial support to the existing schools participating in the scheme; and
- £20,000 to fund a specific resource to support Cylchoedd Meithrin to respond to feedback from Estyn in areas such as curriculum and immersion.

Increasing the number of Welsh-medium teachers

In line with the Cymraeg 2050 work plan for 2021-2026 we are preparing a 10-year plan for the Welsh in Education workforce. The plan will align with the local authority Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) recently submitted for approval and will include an analysis of the current capacity of the workforce as well as future capacity needs in order to respond to local authority plans for expanding Welsh-medium education. The plan will aim to address the following key aims:

- increase the number of teachers able to teach Welsh as a subject and other subjects through the medium of Welsh;
- increase the number of practitioners supporting learners who are able to work through the medium of Welsh;
- support the workforce to develop their Welsh language skills to ensure that Welsh is used across the curriculum, and
- develop leadership capacity for Welsh-medium schools and equip all leaders with skills to strategically plan the development of Welsh within a culture of schools as learning organisations.

In the 2022-23 draft budget additional funding has been allocated and will be invested over the next three years to implement the forthcoming 10-year plan for the Welsh in education workforce. In addition to the £0.8m for Iaith Athrawon Yfory, a further £1.845m will be allocated in 2022-23, an increase of £1m compared to 2021-22, with further increases of £0.5m in 2023-24 and £2m in 2024-25. This funding will be prioritised to support the aims of the plan.

We will also continue to invest approximately £6.4m to support Welsh-language and Welsh-medium professional learning via the Sabbatical Scheme and funding allocated to regional

consortia and local authorities to address regional and local needs. This professional learning is largely targeted at supporting practitioners to develop their skills in order to teach Welsh as part of the new Curriculum for Wales. This in turn should have an impact on the language skills of young people by the time they have completed their education.

I've also recently announced that courses via the National Centre for Learning Welsh will be available for free for education practitioners from September 2022. These courses, along with the Sabbatical Scheme and regional consortia and local authority delivery will ensure that there are courses available nationally on all levels to enable practitioners to continuously develop their Welsh language skills in accordance with the professional standards.

Additional funding announcement - £1 million

As noted by the Committee, on the [18 January](#) I announced funding of £1m for projects to encourage more widespread use of Welsh. This has been met through the repurposing of budgets within the Education and Welsh Language Main Expenditure Group (MEG).

Funding priorities have been agreed in line with the *Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021-26*. The projects prioritised were selected on the basis that they supported or enhanced the activities funded from core funding of these organisations. In the case of the National Eisteddfod, the additional funding provides stability for the organisation as it rebuilds post-COVID so that it can continue to promote culture and language use and commission new literature and art projects for future generations. Depending on the success of Tregaron and subsequent Eisteddfodau, the Eisteddfod will be able to build back its reserves.

The specific projects funded as part of the £1m allows innovation in new areas as well as boosting existing projects. The funding includes:

- £600,000 for Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Tregaron, to support the National Eisteddfod preparations for this year's event and meeting the rising costs associated with hosting a large national event as a result of COVID-19;
- £200,000 for the National Centre for Learning Welsh to support three innovative projects:
 - a scheme to support education workers who undertake the self-study Cymraeg Gwaith course;
 - a digital resource to help asylum seekers and refugees to learn spoken Welsh; and
 - short self-study courses for learners who do not have English as a first language
- £30,000 for Cymraeg i Blant / Cymraeg for Kids for the updating of the design and printing of 50,000 maternity folders and 100,000 scan cards promoting the programme, which will be distributed to all health boards in Wales.
- £100,000 to support our work on the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan for engagement activities to raise awareness of the consultation and encourage people to share their views on the proposed plan and analysing the responses.
- £100,000 for E-sgol to enable the project to hold two series of four-week revision sessions through Microsoft Teams after school for a variety of GCSE, AS and A levels up to the end of March 2022.

- £15,000 for Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / RhAG to further develop their website and to create videos to enable information around Welsh-medium education to be made available in community languages. This will support parents within minority groups whose children attend Welsh-medium education as well as those that have not yet considered Welsh-medium education as an option available to them.
- £10,000 for the promotion of Language Transmission – Môn Families Partnership which will contribute to work to develop an app which aims to increase the intergenerational transmission of Welsh.
- £25,000 to develop resources to work with Black, Asian and minority ethnic community groups to strengthen our messaging around Welsh-medium education, and opportunities to access Welsh and bilingual education even if the home language does not include English or Welsh.

Prosiect 2050

Dr Brooks will start the work on the commission (linked to the work of the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan) to understand the socioeconomic impact on the Welsh language shortly and I will update the Committee on the development of his work and how it will be used to influence policy decisions across the Welsh Government.

Withdrawal of the Helo Blod Lleol scheme

COVID-19 has changed the landscape in which we work, and our work has to change to respond to this. My rationale for withdrawing the Helo Blod Lleol service is because of the need to closely examine our priorities.

I have done this, and am repurposing the funds formerly allocated to Helo Blod Lleol to increase the use of our language in the light of the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, I want to increase the use of our language in the business sector in a different way, by examining what opportunities the cooperative sector offers us to do so. Working with communities to create cooperatives where we can freely use our Welsh answers several aspects of *The effects of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups: government response*, which I published last July. The Helo Blod service will still operate from our Business Wales service, providing information, short translations and a text checking service to businesses and charities who wish to increase their use of Welsh. My intention in doing this is that there will be *more* Welsh used via *more* delivery partners in the future than under the former way of working.

Housing and the language

Since the pandemic, Ministers have been working cross-government to look at the many issues surrounding affordability, second homes and the Welsh language. This has meant working across different portfolios to help create solutions to the many issues and concerns surrounding second homes. Central to this work is supporting the sustainability of the Welsh language and a thriving community language. I have discussed these matters with all relevant Ministers and we are all agreed on delivering on our Programme for Government priorities to ensure that we have practical solutions in place so that people can stay in their local communities. I welcome the opportunity to provide an update to the Committee at a future meeting.

Cymraeg 2050

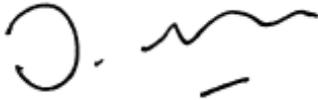
Cymraeg 2050 is a cross-government policy and all Ministers play their part in its delivery and I'm always looking for opportunities to incorporate the strategy into new and emerging policy areas. Senior officials from across Welsh Government are part of the *Cymraeg 2050* Programme Board where progress against the *Cymraeg 2050* targets are discussed and monitored as well as broader discussions around opportunities for cross governmental working and good practice. The Welsh Language Housing Plan noted above, is an excellent example of how cross-government initiatives can work effectively. Another example is the target regarding the creation of Welsh speakers which has been adopted by the Childcare Division, where plans are aligned to the WESPs.

Under the two main targets of *Cymraeg 2050* (reach a million Welsh speakers and double the daily use of the language), various projects support the main tenets of *Cymraeg 2050*, supported by robust data from the Annual Population Survey, the Language Use Survey, as well as the census, as well as the PLASC and LLWR data to track the numbers of new speakers through the education system. Funding decisions, as noted above, support the three top level aims: to create new speakers, increase language use, and fund the socio-economic, corpus and IT infrastructure, as well as support the legislative programme.

Inevitably, difficult decisions have to be made to ensure that the available budget is spent in the most effective way possible given the current context, but all decisions are driven by the vision in *Cymraeg 2050* as evidenced.

I trust that you will find these responses helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a wavy line and a short horizontal stroke.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Economy and Welsh Language Roundtable recommendations / actions – March 2021

1. *Foundational Economy*

Action Point 1: Adapt the Arfor programme interventions in line with the findings of the evaluation and mainstream them to relevant economic programmes.

Action Point 2: Ensure that the evaluation of projects funded by the Foundational Economy Challenge Fund includes consideration of the impact on the Welsh language.

2. *Social Enterprises*

Action Point 3: Create new jobs in the community by developing new social enterprises modelling the work of Cwmni Bro Ffestiniog and Partneriaeth Ogwen etc.

Action Point 4: Encourage community-based Welsh language organisations to relocate to support our town centres and sign-post to Town Centre First fund. Support them to create local hubs which will:

- Allow people to work nearer to their homes.
- Allow individuals to work together in their local community.
- Provide a space for those who cannot or do not want to work from home

3. *Outward Migration*

Action Point 5: Invest and enhance work related programmes targeted at young people to stay or return to the area (Llwybro, Mônallu, Apprentis, Llwyddo'n Lleol and the similar to Propser project in Ireland).

Action Point 6: Request local authorities, where the percentage of Welsh speakers is more than 30%, to roll out the Careers Wales alumni toolkit within Welsh-medium schools to keep in touch with former pupils and support them by informing them of local job opportunities and possible career paths.

4. *Job Opportunities*

Action Point 7: Encourage young people to use the Personal Learning Accounts to study flexible, part-time courses around their existing work responsibilities to gain the necessary skills and qualifications to maximise their job and income potential.

Action Point 8: Create a youth employment programme for rural Wales in cooperation with Regional Skills Partnerships and local employers to address skill shortages and create intelligent workforce planning.

Action Point 9: Circular economy – create job opportunities by using local products and resources, e.g. a wool processing pilot project in Blaenau Ffestiniog use local sourced wool as insulation and fertiliser products creating a foundation for jobs and local business.

Action Point 10: We will develop a pilot project based in a rural area which will incentivise students who have left Wales to return to help teach Welsh in schools for

the final week of school term in the hope that they will be attracted to become teachers in Welsh-medium schools. We will promote the part time online M.A. teaching course to encourage more people to become teachers who work through the medium of Welsh.

Action Point 11: Support the Urdd to create an infrastructure that will create 300 apprenticeships placements over three years.

5. ***Mainstreaming the Welsh Language***

Action Point 12: We will mainstream the Welsh language into all economy and employability programmes ensuring that Welsh language impact assessments are undertaken before a policy or programme is implemented. There will be an expectation that performance indicators and targets are set and that progress is monitored on a regular basis.

Action Point 13: Undertake a review of the Welsh Government standard grant award conditions regarding the Welsh language, to ensure that funded organisations can contribute to the aims of *Cymraeg 2050*.

Action Point 14: To support the delivery of the Economic Contract, we will assist WG relationship managers to better reflect the Welsh language in economic interventions.

6. ***Procurement***

Action Point 15: Continue to work with relevant Public Service Boards to identify the opportunities to redirect public money back into our communities. Understand the current baselines and set realistic but challenging targets to increase local spending power.

7. ***Digital***

Action Point 16: We will work with local authorities and community based organisations to ensure our current digital funding programmes help rural communities to receive fast broadband.

Action Point 17: Following the survey findings of the review of the effects of COVID-19 on Welsh language community groups, we will work with relevant stakeholders to ensure that community groups have the necessary skills to make the best of their digital capabilities.

8. ***Housing***

Action Point 18: We will work with local authorities to build affordable homes and work with local FE colleges to ensure the necessary local skills to build these properties.

Action Point 19: We will consider the recommendations of Dr Simon Brooks' report, *Second homes: Developing new policies in Wales*. We will work with local authorities and housing associations to look at the possibilities to enable local communities to buy properties in sensitive linguistic areas. The aim will be for these properties to be rented as short-term holiday accommodation with the profits being used to develop housing to be rented or support community development incentives for local people.

9. *Transport*

Action Point 20: Implement the specific rural offer interventions in *Llwybr Newydd*, the new transport strategy for Wales.

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/FM -/0815/22

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport
and International Relations Committee
Senedd Cymru

8 March 2022

Dear Chair,

I am writing in response to your letter of 04 February which requested further information on the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2022-23 for International Relations following my attendance at the Committee session on 19 January.

Transparency on expenditure plans

We already publish significant amounts of information as part of our Draft Budget. This includes an extensive summary of all Ministers' written evidence to Senedd scrutiny committees on allocations within each MEG as well as the main draft budget narrative and for the first time this year a detailed infrastructure finance plan under our new Wales Infrastructure Investment Strategy.

We recognise there is always more we can do to improve transparency on our plans which is an area contained within our Budget Improvement Plan with supporting actions to take forward this ambition.

Funding for action plans

The total International Relations budget for 2022-23 is £8.904 million. Of this, £3.47 million is now allocated to International Engagement and £5.434 million is allocated to our overseas office network. Of the £3.47 million allocated to International Engagement, £2.09 million is allocated to our Action Plans. The remaining budget of £1.38m will be used for cross-cutting activity.

This £1.38m cross cutting activity funding supports our overarching international relations objectives that are not associated with a particular Action Plan. This includes inward and

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

outward visits, communications activity and our flagship initiatives and activity which cuts across our Action Plans.

In 2022-23, for example, this budget will support the Ireland/Wales Forum and activity supporting delivery of the Ireland/Wales Joint Statement, Wales in Canada 2022 and Wales in France 2023. This cross cutting budget will also support the role and activity of the Welsh Government's Representative on Europe.

The international actions plans and cross cutting activity are all funded from a single budget line - the International Engagement budget. The term 'internal management purposes' was used to describe the allocation of the budget, set at branch level, to assist with budget management. Each plan receives a soft funding allocation based on a forward work plan. The level of activity against each plan will vary from year to year which is why the allocations are not flat profiled and differ from year to year. In addition, some work-streams also have contractual obligations which will trigger spend and lead to changes in budget allocation. The flexibility in the budget allows for the reactive re-allocation of funds for unforeseen changes in market conditions or opportunities that arise mid-year. We do however envisage a broadly similar profile against plans and cross cutting activity for 2023/24 and 2024/25.

Wales for Africa programme

The International Relations budget was increased to allow for the delivery of the new International Strategy. At that time the then Minister for International Relations and Welsh Language agreed to transfer £350,000 a year from that budget into the separate International Development budget to support delivery of the Wales and Africa elements of the International Strategy. The Wales and Africa programme and budget, including the transferred £350,000, is the responsibility of the Minister for Social Justice. Any additional funding for Wales and Africa projects from the International Relations budget is approved by the First Minister but the Minister for Social Justice would approve and be responsible for the projects themselves. The Minister for Social Justice receives a monthly update on Wales and Africa.

International office expenditure

The total expenditure for the international offices is £5,434,000 which is split into a programme budget and an activity budget. The programme budget is £4,684,000 and is for the running of the overseas network and includes rent, FCDO platform charges, staff salaries and on-costs. A budget of £750,000 supports network-wide activity for the overseas offices.

The Overseas Operations team manages the programme running costs budget and the Overseas Office Performance and Delivery Manager manages the activity budget. The network of overseas offices has an annual combined programme budget of £4.684m and an annual combined activity budget of £750,000. We do not set programme running cost budgets for each office as these are managed centrally. Each office is able to bid into the central activity budget.

Final, draft and indicative budgets are shown in the table below.

	Final budget 2021-22	Draft budget 2022-23	Indicative budget 2023-24	Indicative budget 2024-25
Programme Budget	£4,684,000	£4,684,000	£4,684,000	£4,684,000
Activity Budget	£750,000	£750,000	£750,000	£750,000
Total	£5,434,000	£5,434,000	£5,434,000	£5,434,000

The offices are sometimes supported with additional funding from the International Engagement budget to deliver one-off or flagship programmes of work. £150,000 has been allocated from the 2022-23 International Engagement budget to support the *Wales in Canada* initiative and £50,000 has been allocated in 2022-23 for the *Wales in France* initiative for example.

There is no direct funding to the international offices from other Welsh Government Ministers and departments. However, there can be occasions where the costs from elements of a trade mission or an invest activity are met from the offices. The offices have objectives to deliver Trade and Investment activity and work closely with the Trade and Investment teams in Cardiff providing support on the ground for their overseas programme.

Funding international relations work elsewhere in government

The table at Annex A outlines the other international programmes that are directly funded by other departments with a dedicated budget for international activity.

The figures in the funding column are indicative allocations as spend across all of these programmes has been impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Some departments do not allocate dedicated budgets to their international engagement as activity is generally embedded across a range of their functions. As an example, Event Wales' annual budget of £34.718m supports a balanced and sustainable portfolio of both 'home-grown' and international events which deliver economic impacts to Wales through visitor spend and raises Wales' profile on the international stage through associated media coverage.

Regular scrutiny of International Relations

I have considered the committee's request carefully and decided that a session dedicated to the scrutiny of international relations during one of the regular First Minister scrutiny appearances is the most appropriate approach to take.

I am not aware that any previous First Minister attended Committees to discuss individual portfolio responsibilities and, therefore, I believe the half-termly scrutiny of the First Minister is sufficient.

Yours sincerely,



MARK DRAKEFORD

Agenda Item 8.4

From: Caitriona Noonan <noonanc@cardiff.ac.uk>

To: Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee | Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol
<SeneddCulture@senedd.wales>

Dear Chair and committee

At a meeting on the 13th October, as part of a panel I gave evidence on the subject of the future provision and funding of PSB. Over the course of that evidence we directed the committee to the Young Audience Content Fund – a fund set up several years ago to support the provision of content specifically for children and young people. Over the course of this fund, records suggest investment went to support Welsh language content or Wales-based indies. For instance, in the details about funding in 2019, Person/a (Cwmni Da Cyf) and Y Gyfrinach (Boom Cymru TV) were both awarded investment (Further research is needed about the proportionality of this relative to the overall investments made by the fund across the UK).

However, I wish to draw the committee's attention to the closure of that fund, announced here: <https://www.bfi.org.uk/get-funding-support/create-films-tv-or-new-formats-storytelling/young-audiences-content-fund/closure-young-audiences-content-fund>

I also wish to advise that the decision appears to have taken place without the "full evaluation" of the scheme which the government promised. Currently the Children's Media Foundation is gathering signatories as part of a petition on that issue: <https://www.thechildrensmediafoundation.org/the-young-audiences-content-fund-campaign#signatures> (full disclosure, I have signed that letter).

Setting aside arguments for the funds continuance, I do believe it is important that the process of evaluating such public interventions are appropriate, transparent and timely. Without such evaluation, it is difficult to deliver effective evidence-based policies. The question of appropriate models for funding PSBs are subject to much discussion and debate both within and outside policy circles in Wales, the UK and internationally. So it seems counterproductive to not use this opportunity to assess one apparently novel mode of support and to see whether this might be incorporated in the future.

It might be that the fund didn't achieve its stated aims, in which case specific lessons must be learnt and shared widely to enable greater precision regarding public funding in the future. If

the fund has been successful in its terms, then greater justification is needed regarding its closure, especially given the challenges facing public service broadcasting, the provision of domestic children's television and Welsh language content within that.

These challenges were aptly framed in the committee's letter on the 22nd January to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport regarding the 'serious threat to the future of public service broadcasting in both English and Welsh languages in Wales'. The closure of the YACF, without due regard to its evaluation, is a further element in that threat to the sustainability of diverse and inclusive Welsh and English services for all, especially our young citizens.

Last year my colleagues Laura Sinclair and Dr Cindy Carter were commissioned by the BFI to conduct research on the children who participated in the See Yourself on Screen Challenge (which is also run by the BFI alongside YACF) and they concluded that the role TV shows play in the lives of young audiences in the UK remains vital. The press release attached, published by the BFI, points specifically to the success of the YACF for minority content:

<https://www.bfi.org.uk/news/young-people-uk-television-report>

I thank the committee for its time in considering this matter.

Kind regards

Caitriona

Dr Caitriona Noonan

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Prifysgol Caerdydd

Dau Sgwâr Canolog

Sgwâr Canolog

CAERDYDD

Book with Prof Ruth McElroy: [*Producing British Television Drama: Local Production in a Global Era* 2019](#),
Palgrave Macmillan

Research Project: <https://smallnationsscreen.org/>