

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 12 July 2023

Meeting time: 09.30 – 12.10

For further information contact:

Lleu Williams

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Pre-meeting registration

(09.15 – 09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Pre-appointment scrutiny hearing with the preferred candidate for the post of Chair of National Museum of Wales

(09.30 – 10.15)

(Pages 1 – 42)

- Kate Eden, Welsh Government's preferred candidate for the post of Chair of National Museum of Wales

Attached Documents:

- Research Brief: Pre-appointment scrutiny hearing with the preferred candidate for the post of Chair of National Museum of Wales
- Pre-appointment hearing questionnaire
- Preferred candidate CV
- Preferred candidate personal statement
- Preferred candidate application form
- Information pack for applicants



- Welsh Government Briefing
- Diversity data of candidates

3 Papers to note

(10.15 – 10.25)

3.1 Westminster inquiry on broadcasting in Wales

(Pages 43 – 44)

Attached Documents:

- Letter to the Welsh Affairs Committee: Westminster inquiry on broadcasting in Wales – 4 July 2023

3.2 Legislative Consent: Online Safety Bill

(Page 45)

Attached Documents:

- Letter from the Minister for Economy: Legislative Consent: Online Safety Bill – 6 July 2023

3.3 39th British–Irish Council Summit

(Page 46)

Attached Documents:

- Letter to the First Minister: 39th British–Irish Council Summit – 6 July 2023

3.4 Welsh Government international relations

(Pages 47 – 57)

Attached Documents:

- Response from the First Minister: Welsh Government international relations – 6 July 2023

- Welsh Government international visits – June 2023

3.5 Wales–Ireland relations

(Pages 58 – 62)

Attached Documents:

- Response from the First Minister: Wales–Ireland relations – 6 July 2023

3.6 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25

(Pages 63 – 65)

Attached Documents:

- Letter from the Finance Committee: Draft Budget Timetable 2024–25 – July 2023

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting

(10.25)

5 Pre–appointment scrutiny hearing with the preferred candidate for the post of Chair of National Museum of Wales: consideration of evidence

(10.25 – 10.40)

6 National contemporary art gallery: update on the process of the inquiry

(10.40 – 10.45)

(Pages 66 – 67)

Attached Documents:

- Briefing note: National contemporary art gallery

Break

(10.45 – 11.00)

7 Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach at Football Matches and Other Sports Events: consideration of draft correspondence

(11.00 – 11.05)

(Pages 68 – 69)

Attached Documents:

- Letter to the First Minister: Council of Europe Convention on an Integrated Safety, Security and Service Approach to Football Matches and Other Sporting Events

8 Legislative Consent: Data Protection and Digital Information (No.2) Bill: consideration of the draft report

(11.05 – 11.20)

(Pages 70 – 84)

Attached Documents:

- Draft: The Data Protection and Digital Information (No. 2) Bill
Legislative Consent Memoranda No.1 and No.2

9 Committee Annual Report 2022–23: consideration of the draft report

(11.20 – 11.40)

(Pages 85 – 113)

Attached Documents:

- Briefing note: Committee Annual Report 2022–23
- Draft: Committee Annual Report 2022–23

10 Forward work programme

(11.40 – 12.10)

10.1 Consideration of the forward work programme for autumn 2023

(Pages 114 – 118)

Attached Documents:

- Forward work programme: autumn 2023

10.2 Culture and the new relationship with the EU: consideration of the scoping paper

(Pages 119 – 120)

Attached Documents:

- Scoping paper: Culture and the new relationship with the EU

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Pre-appointment hearing for the post of Chair of National Museum Wales

Pre-appointment questionnaire

July 2023

The Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee will be carrying out a hearing with the preferred candidate for the post of Chair of National Museum Wales in July 2023.

- 1.** The purpose of this session is to improve the transparency of the public appointments process and allow the preferred candidate an opportunity to experience parliamentary and public scrutiny. A report of the session will be sent to the Minister responsible for making the appointment
- 2.** In order to assist with preparation for the pre-appointment session, I would be grateful if you could complete this questionnaire. Your answers will be shared with Committee members ahead of the meeting. The questions below and the answers you provide will form the basis of the discussions with you at the session. Please note that Members may decide to deviate from this structure, depending on answers you provide to the questionnaire and the public evidence session.
- 3.** Please can you return the completed questionnaire by email to SeneddCulture@senedd.wales by 16.00 on 6 July 2023. There is no word limit for the questions. However I would recommend no more than a couple of paragraphs for each question.



4. Please be aware that unless otherwise agreed, the Committee will publish all information submitted to it, including this questionnaire.

5. If you have any questions, please email the Clerk at SeneddCulture@senedd.wales.

<p>Tell us a little bit about yourself and your background (for committee session).</p>	<p>Dywedwch ychydig wrthym amdanoch chi eich hun a'ch cefndir (ar gyfer sesiwn y pwyllgor).</p>
<p>One of four children, I was born in Wrexham and grew up in a village just outside Mold in North Wales. I attended the Alun School in the town through to sixth form, where I benefitted from some really great and inspirational teaching - in art, literature, history and politics in particular – which encouraged me to believe that I could actually win a place at university. I did and whilst I was there I gained a scholarship to the University of Siena to study the art and political philosophy of the Italian city states – an amazing opportunity for which I'll always be grateful. My executive career was then spent in the pharmaceutical and biotech industry working for a range of companies in public affairs, policy and communications roles. These were senior leadership positions in large, complex, global organisations operating under close scrutiny from regulators, politicians and the public. Since 2016 I've had a portfolio career in Wales with a number of non-executive appointments across the Welsh public sector, in particular with Public Health Wales, the Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Health Specialised Services. These positions now combine my background in health with my passion for the cultural life of our nation. Having grown up as the first generation in our family not to speak Welsh, I've been learning Welsh through Coleg Gwent.</p>	
<p>Question 1: What is your motivation for applying to be Chair of National Museum Wales?</p>	<p>Cwestiwn 1: Beth yw eich cymhelliad dros wneud cais i fod yn Gadeirydd Amgueddfa Cymru?</p>
<p>This is a really exciting opportunity to help lead Wales' family of national museums and collections through the next part of their journey to becoming truly accessible, representative reflections of our myriad Welsh communities and histories – and I'm incredible grateful to have reached this stage in the process. One of the first trustee roles I applied for when I left my executive career was with the Museum. This was back in 2016 and at that time I wasn't successful but it sparked an interest that has grown over the years especially as I've seen the Amgueddfa develop and evolve. It's response to difficult times has been inspirational to watch as a visitor – from Reframing Picton, the Objects of Comfort wellbeing campaign, to the purchase of Melin Teifi - it shows a future thinking responsive organisation that I'd love to be part of leading. I'm also passionate about ensuring everyone has the chance to experience this work, to access our facilities and collections – as my work with the Arts Council has shown the impact arts and cultural provision can have in and with communities.</p>	
<p>Question 2: Why do you think you are well-suited for the role?</p>	<p>Cwestiwn 2: Pam ydych chi o'r farn eich bod chi'n ymgeisydd addas ar gyfer y rôl hon?</p>

<p>Having worked as a non executive/trustee on a number of boards over the past seven years, three years ago I was fortunate enough to be appointed as chair of a NHS organisation. This has been a great opportunity to lead an organisation alongside our Managing Director, and see the impact robust governance, sound finance, rigourous oversight and scrutiny can make to an organisation and its staff, and how we deliver for our population. Having been a board member of the Arts Council of Wales for six years, I recently spent six months acting up as Interim Chair. That period - during which I supported the settling in of a new Chief Executive, and oversaw the consultation and application stage for our forthcoming Investment Review - was really instructive and inspirational in allowing me to see myself as a Chair of major national institution. I'm also excited to explore further ways to strengthen the partnerships between our cultural assets, health and well-being, and think I am well placed to champion this work.</p>	
<p>Question 3: What are the three main outcomes that you want to achieve during your tenure?</p>	<p>Cwestiwn 3: Beth yw'r tri phrif beth ydych chi am eu cyflawni yn ystod eich cyfnod yn y rôl?</p>
<p>The work programme and priorities of the Amgueddfa are wide ranging and (rightly) ambitious but there are three elements I would highlight as particularly key to the Chair's role in first three years. Firstly, providing robust oversight of delivery of the priorities set out in the Amgueddfa's strategy with a particular focus on widening engagement across all our communities – both through digitisation projects and in person. Secondly, leading implementation of the recommendations in the forthcoming Tailored Review. Finally, the Chair and the Board play an incredibly important role in setting tone and culture for an organisation and I would want to ensure that every staff member feels like Amgueddfa Cymru is a place where their voice is heard and their contribution valued, where they can both develop themselves and their career, and inspire all our current and future visitors to enjoy and interact with our collections.</p>	
<p>Question 4: How will you work with individuals and organisations that support and promote the work of National Museum Wales?</p>	<p>Cwestiwn 4: Sut byddwch yn gweithio gydag unigolion a sefydliadau sy'n cefnogi ac yn hyrwyddo gwaith y Amgueddfa Cymru?</p>
<p>Effective partnership working is key to ensuring our facilities, locations and collections are as accessible and representative as they possibly can be. My first job would be to fully understand the range of partnerships with individuals and organisations that are already in place, engage with them and seek to build on those relationships to better further our joint aims and ambitions. Secondly, I'd want to understand where there are gaps in our collaborative working – across Wales, the UK and internationally. Part of my public facing role as Chair would be to work to foster those partnerships and be the strongest advocate that I can on behalf of Amgueddfa Cymru and all its staff. Finally, my</p>	

<p>personal style is to be visible in and around the organisations I work with, to understand staff, partners and their experience of working on the ground – that understanding is vital to good governance and effective board working.</p>	
<p>Question 5: How will you ensure that you maintain your independence from the Welsh Government, whilst also influencing and holding the Welsh Government to account on areas of priority for arts, culture and heritage?</p>	<p>Cwestiwn 5: Sut byddwch yn sicrhau eich bod yn cynnal eich annibyniaeth o Llywodraeth Cymru, tra hefyd yn dylanwadu a dal y Llywodraeth Cymru i gyfrif ar feysydd blaenoriaeth ar gyfer y celfyddydau, diwylliant a threftadaeth?</p>
<p>The relationship between Welsh Government and Amgueddfa Cymru is well described in the Royal Charter, the Remit Letter and the Framework Document and operates on the arms length principle. Building a strong relationship with officials in the sponsor department and the Deputy Minister will be key to maintaining this principle. I'm used to working as a Chair and board member with Welsh Government in this way – maintaining independence whilst ensuring positive and productive relationships. There will always be difficult conversations to be had as public monies are spent and priorities are being delivered, but ensuring there are always open channels of communications to and from the Chair is critical.</p>	
<p>Question 6: How will you work with Senedd Members, Senedd Committees and other stakeholders?</p>	<p>Cwestiwn 6: Sut fyddwch chi'n gweithio gydag Aelodau o'r Senedd, Pwyllgorau'r Senedd a rhanddeiliaid eraill?</p>
<p>I'd like to work with this Committee, other Senedd Committees and Senedd Members in an open and transparent manner. Senedd Committees and Members play a critical role in scrutinising the work of Amgueddfa Cymru and the way in which it spends public money. There will be formal ways in which the Chair of the Amgueddfa will need to interact with them – providing evidence and keeping them updated on areas of priority. Outside these more formal interactions, I would warmly welcome regular contact with Committees and Members in the work the Amgueddfa does so that the opportunities and challenges that face us are fully understood.</p>	

Background

6. Welsh Ministers and the Senedd have agreed to pre-appointment scrutiny of some Chair/Commissioner appointments by the relevant Senedd Committee in order to further improve the scrutiny and transparency of the public appointment process. This scrutiny will take the form of a hearing of 45 minutes, in public session, of the preferred candidate.

7. As part of the recruitment process, you will have been told that Senedd Committees have the option to conduct a hearing for 'significant Welsh Government Ministerial appointments'. The Chair of National Museum Wales is one of these roles.

8. As part of their role, the preferred candidate will need to be able to withstand parliamentary and public scrutiny. This hearing is an opportunity to experience this. The question topics during the hearing are a matter for Committee Members, however, they will usually cover:

- a candidate's professional competence;
- personal independence;
- how the individual would plan to undertake the role (e.g. building relationships with internal and external stakeholders and working with the Welsh Government) and;
- the experience and expertise they would bring to the role.

9. Candidates are not expected to understand the intricate workings of the body for which they would have responsibility, in this case, National Museum Wales, though such questioning may feature in evidence sessions after an individual has taken up post.

Procedure

10. At least one week in advance of the scheduled date for the hearing (12 July 2023), the Welsh Government will provide the Committee with the name and relevant details (CV, personal statement, declaration of interests etc) of the Welsh Government's preferred candidate for the appointment, together with information about the role, as well as a short outline of how the recruitment was conducted.

11. The Welsh Government should have briefed the preferred candidate on the nature of the pre-appointment hearing in advance. However, candidates are welcome to speak directly to the Clerk of the Committee to discuss the Committee's likely approach, please email SeneddCulture@senedd.wales if you would like to speak to the Clerk about your hearing.

12. Following the hearing, the Committee Clerk will write a summary of the Committee's comments and send this, as a report, to the Welsh Government Public Bodies Unit within 48 hours. The report will set out the Committee's views on the preferred candidate's suitability for the role.

13. The candidate and the Minister will usually receive the report under a 24 hour embargo to allow them time to consider the report and, if needed, prepare a response to any specific points it contains.

14. The Minister will then weigh the views of the Committee carefully against the evidence from the appointments procedure to reach a final view to ensure that the decision is made fairly and taking all relevant considerations into account.

15. It is for the Minister to decide whether or not to accept a Committee's recommendations relating to an appointment. The Minister must consider any relevant observations made by the Committee before deciding whether to go ahead with the appointment.

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

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Information pack for applicants

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales Appointing a Chair

Closing date: 17:00 11 April 2023



**The Commissioner for
Public Appointments**

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Submitting an Application

Thank you for your interest in the role of Chair at Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales (Amgueddfa Cymru). As Chair, you can influence the strategic direction of the Museum by formulating Board strategies and contributing to policies that will benefit the Museum in the short and long term. The successful candidate will be the Chair of Amgueddfa Cymru, with overall responsibility for chairing and overseeing the Board of Trustees. The Chair is ultimately accountable to Welsh Ministers for the conduct of Amgueddfa Cymru's affairs and its Trustees. The attached Annexes provide more details on the role and essential criteria; the role and responsibilities of the Board of Trustees and Amgueddfa Cymru; and the selection process.

To submit an application please visit the Welsh Government public appointments website here <https://cymru-wales.tal.net/vx/lang-en-GB/mobile-0/appcentre-3/brand-2/candidate/jobboard/vacancy/7/adv/>.

To apply for this role, click on the vacancy and then click on 'Apply' at the bottom left-hand corner. The first time you apply for a post, you will need to complete a registration form for the Welsh Government's online application system. You will only need to register once, and you will be able to keep yourself updated on the progress of your application, and any other applications you make, via your registered account. Once you've registered, you'll be able to access the application form. To apply you will need to upload a personal statement and CV in the 'Reasons for applying' section of the online application form. The personal statement and CV should both be a maximum of two pages of A4 (four pages total).

Personal Statement

The personal statement is your opportunity to

1. outline your interest in the role,
2. demonstrate how you meet the essential criteria, and
3. outline how you could contribute to the work of Amgueddfa Cymru.

How you choose to present the information is up to you. However, you should aim to provide detailed examples that demonstrate how your knowledge and lived and / or professional experience matches the 'role of Chair' and the 'essential criteria', and which describe what your role was in achieving a specific result. Providing separate paragraphs in relation to each criterion is common practice.

Please limit your personal statement to two pages of A4. Your application may be rejected if you exceed this limit.

CV

Please ensure your CV includes brief details of your current or most recent post and the dates you occupied this role. Please identify any past or present Ministerial appointments. **Do not include extensive lists of publications or research activity.**

References

Please provide two referees who can be contacted later in the process (for successful candidates only).

Indicative timetable

Closing date: **17:00 11 April 2023**
Shortlisting:
Interviews:

Potential pre-appointment hearing: TBC

Diversity Statement

The Welsh Government believes that public bodies should have board members who reflect Welsh society - people from all walks of life and knowledge of different parts of Wales - to help them understand people's needs and make better decisions. This is why the Welsh Government is encouraging a wide and diverse range of individuals to apply for appointments to public bodies. Applications are particularly welcome from all under-represented groups including women, people under 30 years of age, Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people, disabled people, lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

Disability Confident

The Welsh Government accepts the social definition of disability, in which it is recognised that barriers in society act to disable people who have impairments or health conditions or who use British Sign Language. We are committed to removing barriers so that all staff can perform at their best. The Equality Act 2010 uses the medical definition of disability (“a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term impact on a person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities”).

We guarantee to interview anyone who is disabled whose application meets the essential criteria for this post. By ‘essential criteria’ we mean that you must provide us with evidence in your application which demonstrates that you generally meet the level of competence for the role and any qualifications, skills or experience defined as essential.

We are committed to the employment and career development of disabled people and people from a diverse background. If you would like a guaranteed interview, please contact publicappointments@gov.wales.

If you have an impairment or health condition, or use British Sign Language and need to discuss reasonable adjustments for any part of this recruitment process, please contact publicappointments@gov.wales as soon as possible and a member of the team will contact you to discuss your requirements and any questions you may have.

Contacts:

For further information regarding the selection process, please contact:

Public Bodies Unit

Email: publicappointments@gov.wales

For further information regarding the role of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales and the role of Vice-Chair, or to speak with a current Board trustee, contact: Mark Petherick

Email: Mark.Petherick@museumwales.ac.uk Tel: (029) 2057 3130

Alternatively, please contact Jason.Thomas@gov.wales (Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism, Welsh Government)

For queries about your application, please contact publicappointments@gov.wales

For further information about Public Appointments in Wales, please visit www.gov.wales/publicappointments

Welsh Government will aim to process all applications as quickly as possible and to treat all applicants with courtesy. If you have any complaints about the way your application has been handled, please contact publicappointments@gov.wales

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

Annex A: Appointment of Chair to Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales

The Role of Chair

Amgueddfa Cymru is incorporated by Royal Charter and is a registered charity regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Chair therefore has responsibilities under the Charter and, like all Trustees, must comply with charity law and Charity Commission guidance.

The Chair is accountable to Welsh Government Minister(s) (the Welsh Government provides some 80% of the Museums funding) and may also be held to account by Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament. Communications between Board and the Minister must, in the normal course of business, be conducted through the Chair. The Chair must ensure other trustees are kept informed of all such communications.

The Chair is responsible for ensuring policies and actions support the Minister's wider strategic policies, and the Body's affairs are conducted with probity. Where appropriate, the Chair must make arrangements to communicate and disseminate these policies and actions throughout the Body.

We are looking for candidates who can play a leading role, inspiring and supporting the work of the Museum in achieving its vision, The position of Chair requires a person of integrity and vision, capable of leading a national organisation in the senior non-executive role, and of being an advocate for the Museum with our key stakeholders.

Relationship with the Senior Executive Team

As Chair, you will establish, build and maintain a strong, effective and supportive working relationship with the Director General and wider Senior Executive Team providing support and advice in the implementation of the Museum's *Amgueddfa Cymru 2030* strategy, whilst respecting executive responsibility.

The current Director General will be stepping down in April meaning, at the time of appointment of the new Chair, there may be an interim Director General or no Director General of the Museum.

The Chair has leadership responsibilities for:

- leading the Board of Trustees in formulating and approving Amgueddfa Cymru strategies and overseeing their implementation including delivering the Amgueddfa Cymru 2030 strategy;
- representing Amgueddfa Cymru to Ministers and Welsh Government officials;
- ensuring Amgueddfa Cymru, in reaching decisions, takes proper account of statutory and financial management requirements and all relevant guidance including guidance provided by the Welsh Ministers;
- developing strong and effective relationships between Amgueddfa Cymru and key stakeholders, including other cultural and heritage organisations;
- maintaining oversight of overall progress of the Amgueddfa Cymru senior leadership team, including the Director General;
- supporting the executive team in promoting the economic, efficient and effective use of staff and other resources;
- ensuring high standards of regularity, propriety, and governance; and
- representing the views of Amgueddfa Cymru to the public including with the Director General, being the public face of the Museum.

The Chair must also:

- ensure all Board Members are briefed fully on the terms of their appointment and on their duties, rights and responsibilities;
- lead Amgueddfa Cymru to actively widen access and create an inclusive culture sector and organisation, in line with the Widening Engagement Action Plan and the Welsh Government's Anti-racist Wales Action Plan, Action on Disability Framework and the LGBTQ+ Action Plan;
- work with the Welsh Government and lead the process in Amgueddfa Cymru of responding to the recommendations of the Tailored Review;
- ensure all Board members receive appropriate training, including on the financial management and reporting requirements of charities and public sector bodies and on the differences which might exist between private and public sector practice;
- ensure the Board has a balance of skills appropriate to directing the Body's business;
- where appointments to vacancies on the Board are to be made by the Minister, advise accordingly;
- assess the performance of individual Board members in accordance with the arrangements agreed with the partnership team in Welsh Government;
- appraise and assess the performance of the Director General;
- ensure an appropriate code of conduct for Board members, including rules and guidance on Board members' interests and conflicts of interest, is in place.

Essential Criteria

In your application, you will be expected to demonstrate the following essential criteria, which will be tested further at interview:

- experience of operating at a senior level (executive or non-executive) and sound decision making in a large, complex or multi-disciplinary organisation and the ability to Chair a Board effectively;
- demonstrates a commitment to the values and the vision of Amgueddfa Cymru, and an appreciation of its role and purpose as a national organisation in Wales; including the cultural, learning, health and well-being, economic and socio-political contexts in which it operates; and an understanding of its obligations under the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015;
- strong interpersonal, communication and stakeholder management skills, including ambassadorial skills;
- a proven track record of increasing diversity and promoting inclusion and equality. A demonstrable commitment to widening access and participation in culture throughout Wales;
- demonstrates the ability to think strategically and/or demonstrates commercial acumen, income-generating experience in the visitor economy or equivalent and/or fundraising experience;
- able to evidence a thorough understanding of good governance, accountability, and financial responsibility, ideally including public sector finances; and
- has a commitment to [Nolan's Seven Principles of Public Life](#).

Welsh Language

This role is being advertised concurrently with the role of Vice-Chair. One of the successful applicants for either of these posts will need to be a Welsh speaker or commit to developing their Welsh language skills on appointment. We will fully support them with a bespoke training package. As is the case in respect of other requirements, reasonable adjustments can be discussed.

The Museum is a bi-lingual organisation and is pro-active in supporting and promoting the use of the Welsh language. The Museum is also required to comply with the Welsh Language Standards, as set out by the Welsh Government under Section 44 of the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011.

It is the policy of the Museum's principal sponsor, the Welsh Government, to support the Welsh language, and its Welsh Language Strategy (Cymraeg 2050 – A Million Welsh Speakers) promotes and facilitates the use of the Welsh language.

Other:

Location: The Chair's activities will usually be concentrated in the Cardiff area, but they will be required to visit other National Museums and other locations. Board of Trustees meetings are held 4 times a year, with most meetings held in south Wales

Time Commitment: On average, 2 days per week. This includes attendance at meetings and events

Tenure of office: 4-year period, anticipated to commence in spring 2023

Remuneration: **£35,182.80**, the Chair is also entitled to travel and other reasonable expenses within agreed limits

Travel to Board, Committee, events, and other meetings across Wales may be required although there may be flexibility to allow virtual as well as in-person attendance.

The Welsh Government and Amgueddfa Cymru are currently reviewing draft recommendations submitted by the independent Tailored Review Panel. You will be made aware of any recommendations to be taken forward that affect this appointment

Assistance for Disabled Members

Where appropriate all reasonable adjustments will be made to enable members to effectively carry out their duties.

Eligibility

Information about the eligibility of current or former Trustees to apply for positions on the Board is included in [Amgueddfa Cymru's Royal Charter](#).

Applicants should also note that membership of the Board of Trustees of Amgueddfa Cymru will render them ineligible for membership of Senedd Cymru – The Senedd Cymru (Disqualification) Order 2020. [The Senedd Cymru \(Disqualification\) Order 2020 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

Conflict of Interests

You will be asked to declare any private interests which may, or may be perceived to, conflict with the role and responsibilities as Chair of Amgueddfa Cymru, including any business interests and positions of authority outside of the role in Amgueddfa Cymru.

Any conflicts of interest will be explored at interview. If appointed, you will also be required to declare these interests on a register which is available to the public.

Due Diligence

Welsh Government Public Bodies Unit will undertake due diligence checks on all candidates successfully sifted to interview. This will include, but not necessarily be limited to social media and Internet searches. As a result, you may be asked questions at interview in relation to any due diligence findings.

Standards in Public Life

You will be expected to demonstrate high standards of corporate and personal conduct. All successful candidates will be asked to subscribe to the Code of Conduct for Board Members of Public Bodies; you can access this document at:

<http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/governance/blboard/Board%20Code%20of%20Practice%202011.pdf>

Annex B

The role and responsibilities of Amgueddfa Cymru

Amgueddfa Cymru is one of the leading cultural organisations and national institutions in Wales and is visited by 1.9 million people each year.

Established by Royal Charter in 1907, Amgueddfa Cymru is one of the largest museums in the United Kingdom, the custodian of internationally significant, diverse collections, and a leader in education and cultural participation.

Amgueddfa Cymru's sites include Wales' seven national museums: National Museum Cardiff; St Fagans National Museum of History; Big Pit National Coal Museum in Blaenavon; National Wool Museum Dre-fach, Felindre; National Roman Legion Museum in Caerleon; National Slate Museum in Llanberis, Snowdonia and the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea. We also have a National Collections Centre near Cardiff. There are over 5 million individual items in our collections, embracing art and design, history and archaeology, and the natural sciences.

Amgueddfa Cymru is sponsored by the Welsh Government. It has a Board of Trustees whose role is to set the strategic direction of the organisation and ensure proper management of its resources. As a Museum, we are also accountable for the use of our collections and resources to the nation we serve.

Amgueddfa Cymru's vision

Amgueddfa Cymru belongs to us all. Our vision is to inspire people through Wales' national museums and collections to find a sense of well-being and identity, to discover, enjoy and learn bilingually, and to understand Wales' place in the wider world.

We believe that everyone has the right to participate in the cultural life of their communities and of their nation. We've developed a ten-year strategy for the Museum - [Amgueddfa Cymru 2030](#) - which includes six clear commitments. We will work with people and communities across Wales, through collections, public programmes and partnerships, to:

- Make sure that everyone is represented
- Inspire creativity and learning for life
- Help protect and restore nature and our environment
- Support well-being through inspirational spaces and experiences
- Discover and explore the museum digitally
- Build global connections.

Our new Chair will have a critical role to play in making these commitments a reality and in supporting the delivery of the Welsh Government's Programme for Government commitments for which the Amgueddfa is a lead or key partner, particularly developing plans for a Museum of North Wales, a National Contemporary Art Gallery, a new Culture Strategy and commitments to create an Anti-racist Wales.

The Board's Role and Responsibilities

The Board of Trustees is the governing body of Amgueddfa Cymru.

The role of the Board is to provide effective leadership, to define and develop strategic direction and to set challenging objectives. The Board promotes high standards of public accountability and upholds the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money. It monitors performance against Amgueddfa Cymru's own strategic objectives and performance targets, and those set by Welsh Government.

Amgueddfa Cymru is a registered charity and a Welsh Government Sponsored Body. Trustees have obligations pursuant to charity law, those set out in the Royal Charter and to the Welsh Government and to Senedd Cymru and the Charity Commission.

Amgueddfa Cymru currently receives around 80% of its annual funding (£25.4 million revenue funding, and £4.75m capital funding in 2022/23) from the Welsh Government as Grant in Aid. The organisation employs over 600 staff across its sites.

A Tailored Review of Amgueddfa Cymru is currently underway – the recommendations of which are due in Spring 2023. The Board will be responsible for overseeing the swift implementation of the agreed recommendations.

Trustees of the Board

Trustees oversee, support and hold to account the Director General in implementing the Museum's strategic vision and delivering against the objectives as set out by the Welsh Government in Amgueddfa Cymru's [Remit Letter](#).

Trustees must also:

- attend Board meetings regularly and prepare thoroughly for them;
- be prepared to serve on sub-committees;
- actively support the Museum's management and staff in their work;
- represent the Museum at public functions;
- promote the profile of the Museum;
- give the Museum the benefit of their experience and expertise;
- facilitate contact with Museum stakeholders; and
- contribute to the development of policy, strategies and priorities in relation to the management of the Museum's collections.

Trustees must be aware of their obligations arising from the position of the Museum as a Welsh Government Sponsored Body and as a registered charity. These are set out in the Framework Document, which sets out the Terms and Conditions relating to the funding provided to the Museum by the Welsh Government.

To be effective, the Board needs Trustees with a broad range of expertise and experience.

Annex C

The Selection Process

The interview panel will assess candidates' CVs and personal statements to determine who it believes best meet the criteria for the role, and who will be invited to interview. The panel will rely only on the information you provide in these documents to assess whether you have the skills and experience required. Please ensure that you provide evidence to support how you meet all of the essential criteria.

The selection panel will be chaired by Jason Thomas (Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism, Welsh Government). Remaining panel members, including a senior independent panel member, are yet to be confirmed. Shortlisted candidates will be advised of the full panel prior to interview.

Your application may be "long-listed", subject to the volume of applications received, before it is passed to the shortlisting panel for consideration. You should be aware that in this situation, your application might not be considered in full by all panel members.

We anticipate that the panel will have decided who will be invited for interview by mid-April

The panel will select for interview only the strongest applicants who it feels have demonstrated that they best meet the criteria set out in the 'role of the Chair' and 'essential criteria'. However, if you have applied under the guaranteed interview scheme and you meet the minimum essential criteria for the post, then you will also be invited for interview.

If you are invited to interview and if the interview date is not already provided in this information pack, we will aim to provide you with as much notice as we can of the interview date. If you are unable to make the arranged interview date, we will endeavour to re-arrange it but it might not be possible due to time constraints within the appointment timetable or selection panel availability.

You will receive email communication from the Appoint system to let you know whether or not you have been invited to interview. It is our intention that interviews will take place remotely via Microsoft Teams.

If invited to interview, the panel will question you about your skills and experience, asking specific questions to assess whether you meet the criteria set out for the post.

Candidates who the panel believe are 'appointable' will be recommended to the Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and the Chief Whip who will make the final decision. The Deputy Minister may choose to meet with appointable candidates before making a decision. If she does, she will meet all candidates in the presence of the panel chair or their nominated representative. There will be a time gap between interview and a final appointment decision being made. Candidates who have been interviewed will be kept informed of progress.

If you are successful, you will receive a letter inviting you to accept an appointment as Chair of Amgueddfa Cymru, which will confirm the terms on which the appointment is offered.

Welsh Ministers and Senedd Cymru have agreed to introduce pre-appointment scrutiny of significant Welsh Government Ministerial appointments by the relevant Senedd Cymru committee in order to further improve the scrutiny and transparency of the public appointment process. As this is deemed a significant public appointment, the final stage of the appointment process will be a pre-appointment hearing, where the Minister's preferred candidate will appear before the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

If you are unsuccessful at interview, you will be notified by Welsh Government. We appreciate it takes a lot of time and effort to apply for roles and that feedback is a valuable part of the process. As a result, the letter will provide the details of who you may approach for feedback on your interview and application, if you so wish.

Queries

For queries about your application, please contact publicappointments@gov.wales.

If you are not completely satisfied

Welsh Government will aim to process all applications as quickly as possible and to treat all applicants with courtesy. If you have any complaints about the way your application has been handled, please contact publicappointments@gov.wales.

Recruitment of Chair – Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales

Vacancy summary:

Amgueddfa Cymru is incorporated by Royal Charter and is a registered charity regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales. The Chair therefore has responsibilities under the Charter and, like all Trustees, must comply with charity law and Charity Commission guidance.

The Chair is accountable to Welsh Government Minister(s) (the Welsh Government provides some 80% of the Museums funding) and may also be held to account by Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament. Communications between Board and the Minister must, in the normal course of business, be conducted through the Chair. The Chair must ensure other trustees are kept informed of all such communications.

The Chair is responsible for ensuring policies and actions support the Minister's wider strategic policies, and the Body's affairs are conducted with probity. Where appropriate, the Chair must make arrangements to communicate and disseminate these policies and actions throughout the Body.

The Chair is someone who can play a leading role, inspiring and supporting the work of the Museum in achieving its vision, The position of Chair requires a person of integrity and vision, capable of leading a national organisation in the senior non-executive role, and of being an advocate for the Museum with our key stakeholders.

Background:

Amgueddfa Cymru is one of the leading cultural organisations and national institutions in Wales and is visited by 1.9 million people each year.

Established by Royal Charter in 1907, Amgueddfa Cymru is one of the largest museums in the United Kingdom, the custodian of internationally significant, diverse collections, and a leader in education and cultural participation.

Amgueddfa Cymru's sites include Wales' seven national museums: National Museum Cardiff; St Fagans National Museum of History; Big Pit National Coal Museum in Blaenavon; National Wool Museum Dre-fach, Felindre; National Roman Legion Museum in Caerleon; National Slate Museum in Llanberis, Snowdonia and the National Waterfront Museum, Swansea. We also have a National Collections Centre near Cardiff. There are over 5 million individual items in our collections, embracing art and design, history and archaeology, and the natural sciences.

Amgueddfa Cymru is sponsored by the Welsh Government. It has a Board of Trustees whose role is to set the strategic direction of the organisation and ensure proper management of its resources. As a Museum, we are also accountable for the use of our collections and resources to the nation we serve.

Publicity summary:

The Welsh Government circulated details of the appointment through stakeholder lists held by the Public Bodies Unit (PBU) and posted the vacancy on the Welsh Government public appointments website and the UK Cabinet Office website.

The vacancy was promoted by the following Social Media channels and advertised through the media listed below:

- Diversity Jobsite
- Fish4jobs
- Black Young Professionals
- Women on Board
- The Guardian
- Museums association
- Museum Next
- Safle Swyddi
- Lleol

Recruitment process summary:

Advertised on both Welsh Government and Cabinet Office website between 10 March and 11 April 2023

Sift – 18 April 2023

Interviews – 23 and 26 May 2023

Assessment advisory panel membership:

Jason Thomas, (Chair), Director, Culture Sport and Tourism, Welsh Government
Craig Stephenson, Senior Independent Panel Member
Helgard Krause, Welsh Books Council, Independent Panel Member

A total of 9 applications for the new role were received. **4 candidates were recommended for interview.** The Assessment Advisory Panel considered there to be **3 Appointable candidate.**

Deputy Minister for Arts Sports and Tourism's preferred candidate – Kate Eden

Conflict of Interest (as stated on the application form)

Council Member and Vice Chair, Arts Council of Wales
Prifysgol Aberystwyth University

Political Activity (as stated on the application form)

None

Annex A - Diversity Data

	Applied	Short Listed
Number of Candidates	6	4
Gender		
Female	3	2
Male	3	2
Other gender		
Gender self-description		
Gender prefer not to say		
Disability		
Declared disability		
No declared disability	6	0
Disability prefer not to say		
Ethnicity		
White	5	4
Mixed / Multiple ethnic groups		
Asian / Asian British		
Black / Black British		
Other ethnic group	1(Black Caribbean)	
Ethnicity self-description		
Ethnicity prefer not to say		
Age		
16-24		
25-34	1	
35-44		
45-54	2	2
55-64	2	2
65-74	1	
75-84		
85+		
Age prefer not to say	1	
Sexual Orientation		
Bisexual		
Gay or Lesbian		
Heterosexual	6	4
Other sexual orientation		
Sexual orientation self-description		
Sexual orientation prefer not to say		
Religion		
Buddhist		
Christian	4	3
Hindu		
Jewish		
Muslim		
Sikh		
Other religion		
Atheist / No religion		
Religion prefer not to say	2	1
Principal Residence		

North East		
Yorkshire & Humberside		
East Midlands		
West Midlands		
East		
London		
South East		
South West	1	1
Wales	5	3
Scotland		
Northern Ireland		
Other residence		
Residence prefer not to say		
Principal Employment		
Mostly Civil Service		
Mostly Private Sector		
Mostly Third Sector	1	1
Mostly Wider Public Sector	3	2
Mixed	2	1
Other principle employment		
Principle employment prefer not to say		
Public Appointments Held		
0 Public Appointments Held		
1 Public Appointments Held	1	1
2 Public Appointments Held		
3 Public Appointments Held		
4 Public Appointments Held		
5-9 Public Appointments Held		
10+ Public Appointments Held		
Public Appointments Held prefer not to say		
Political Activity		
Declared political activity		
No declared political activity		
Political activity prefer not to say		
Conservative		
Green		
Labour	1	1
Liberal Democrats		
Plaid Cymru		
Scottish National Party		
United Kingdom Independence Party		
Any other parties	1	

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

Rt Hon Stephen Crabb MP
Chair
Welsh Affairs Committee
House of Commons
London
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—
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04 July 2023

Inquiry on broadcasting in Wales

Dear Stephen

I am writing to thank you for the invitation to appear at the Welsh Affairs Committee's final evidence session for its inquiry on broadcasting in Wales on Wednesday 28 June 2023. The appearance provided an important opportunity to scrutinise a UK Government minister on a matter that is of interest to the Senedd's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee. The model used for such scrutiny worked very well in my view.

I wanted to thank you and your committee for your willingness and enthusiasm in embracing this joint way of working. I would also appreciate it if you could pass on my thanks to your fellow Members and committee team for the welcome they gave to me.

I look forward to further opportunities for joint working in the future.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/VG/1101/23

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

6 July 2023

Dear Delyth,

Many thanks to you and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee members for considering the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memoranda (Memoranda No.5) for the new offence of encouraging or assisting the serious self-harm of others, in respect of the UK Government's Online Safety Bill.

I welcome the report that was published by the Committee on 19 June which notes that members agree with the Welsh Government's assessment that, in so far as the new provisions are not related to electronic communications, consent of the Senedd is required for those provisions.

Yours sincerely,

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
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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.

Mark Drakeford
First Minister
Welsh Government

06 July 2023

Re: Inter-institutional relations agreement: 39th British-Irish Council Summit

Dear Mark,

I refer to your letter dated 12 June 2023, notifying the Chair of the Legislation, Justice, and Constitution Committee of the 39th British-Irish Council Summit under the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement between the Senedd and the Welsh Government.

Having discussed this correspondence as a committee, we would be grateful if you could please share future correspondence on the British-Irish Council with our committee as well, as the committee responsible for international relations. We would also be grateful to receive a copy of the communique agreed by the Council at the Summit along with the previously agreed monthly summaries of diplomatic visits to Wales and Ministerial visits overseas. We are, again, grateful for this.

I am copying this letter to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee, the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee, the Local Government and Housing Committee, and the Equality and Social Justice Committee, with whom you also shared the 12 June letter.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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

6 July 2023

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter of 07 June which requested further information following my attendance at the Committee's annual scrutiny session of International Relations on 10 May.

Guidance on DAs sent to UK Heads of Mission by UK Foreign Secretary

I wrote to the Foreign Secretary on 3 May expressing disappointment with the revised guidance sent to UK Heads of Mission. The approach is not in line with the collaborative principles set out in the Inter-governmental Review as the guidance was developed unilaterally by the UK Government without consultation. It also states that a senior UK officials should be present at all overseas meetings held by devolved governments if they believe that reserved matters may be discussed.

The matter was raised at the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC) attended by Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution. The meeting noted the concerns around the recent guidance and agreed that Ministers would invite the FCDO to a future IMSC to discuss this issue.

The FS responded to my letter on 22 May, noting the concerns but concluding that the practice of UK Government officials being present at ministerial-level meetings with host governments has been a longstanding and common one, and having UK Government officials present can help to ensure policy cohesion and clarity of messaging on UK international policy. I enclose both letters for noting (English only).

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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.

International bi-lateral agreements

I signed the Wales/Flanders Memorandum of Understanding with the Minister President on his visit to Cardiff on 6 June. Similar agreements with Baden Württemberg and Silesia are currently in development, and subject to agreement we expect these to be signed before the end of the year. I will also be re-signing our agreement with Brittany when I travel to Rennes in the Summer, and we are exploring the possibility of a refreshed agreement with Catalonia at some point in the future.

Following the recommendation by the Committee, we created a [dedicated webpage](#) that lists all active international bi-lateral agreements, including the listing of the areas of co-operation with our partners. Details on the Flanders agreement have been included. On the basis that we have the details of the agreements on a dedicated webpage, I see no reason to send on copies of these to the Committee which are generally standard in their form and structure.

Wales in Canada 2022 Programme of Activity

I have included a summary of the Wales in Canada 2022 activity at Annex A, which also includes achievements and outcomes. All the activity aligned with at least one of the international strategy's three key ambitions to:

- Raise Wales' international profile,
- Grow our economy through exports and inward investment,
- Establish Wales as a globally responsible nation.

The main lessons learned from the previous campaigns centred around earlier engagement in the planning process - both across government and with external stakeholders - and the securing of additional support officers to help deliver the campaign at least three months ahead. We have also seen a difference in our communications opportunities and outputs when a press officer is part of an outward ministerial delegation. All of these lessons have been applied to Wales in France 2023 and we will continue to evaluate each campaign to measure its success and to continue to apply learning to ensure we maximise the opportunities of each campaign.

Language activity during Wales in Canada 2022

Language forms an important part of our international activity as set out in the International Strategy. Our 'Wales in' years have sought to use this opportunity to engage in this area. As part of the Wales in Canada year, activity covering language included:

- Welsh presence at BreakOut West Festival in Calgary, with three separate artists showcasing. In collaboration with FOCUS Wales, we supported three showcase concerts to highlight the Welsh artists and held a Sunday music session with Welsh and Indigenous languages artists. On Truth and Reconciliation Day, Wales Arts International and a representative of the Welsh band Adwaith spoke on a panel around the role music plays in protecting and promoting indigenous languages.

- Supporting a project through the Wales-Quebec Call for Proposals to facilitate collaboration between Literature Across Frontiers and literary festival 'Metropolis Bleu' in Montreal. A bilingual language writer came to Montreal and did a reading in Welsh and English in the Montreal Botanical Gardens.
- Promotion on social media of Urdd Peace message in Canada's official languages, and Inuktitut – the most widely-spoken indigenous language in Canada.
- Promotion of Wales via the collaboration with Yukon-based social media influencer, Pavlina Sudrich, who promoted Wales' values, language, sport, culture and heritage to her hundreds of thousands of followers. The videos we commissioned from this collaboration gained over 5.5million views, with high rates of engagement.
- Office of the Future Generations Commissioner visit to Canada showcasing our work in Wales on language as part of the UN Decade of Indigenous Languages.

A full list of Wales in Canada 2022 activity is at Annex A.

Welsh Government Relationship with Welsh Rugby Union

We look forward to Wales being represented again in a major international sporting tournament and the excitement that this brings to Wales and the platform it offers to raise our profile internationally. In terms of the Rugby World Cup, this means that we will continue to work with all our stakeholders involved in the Wales in France year including the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU). The WRU is the national governing body for rugby union in Wales and has an aim to promote rugby and participation in the sport across Wales. Citizens across Wales will be looking forward to our nation's participation in the tournament and it is right that we are ready to support that.

I am concerned when any organisation faces challenges and allegations around its internal processes and cultures. I think it is important to acknowledge that the WRU has recognised and accepted the concerns that have been raised and has taken positive steps. The external review and the recent governance changes that were agreed at the EGM in March is a very positive step in the right direction. Last week WRU appointed an independent chair and a new director onto the board. We need to continue to see improvements and we will continue our engagement with WRU on that basis.

From a sport perspective we need to continue working closely with key partners and stakeholders, such as the WRU, as custodians of the game. We will maintain productive relations to deliver, for example, the community game, as this contributes to the Programme for Government commitment to enhance access and increase participation in sport and physical activity.

Future role of Welsh Government's representative in Europe.

Derek Vaughan was appointed as the Welsh Government Representative on Europe in January 2022 by open competition for a fixed term until early 2024. Since taking up the role, he has been successfully using his experience and contacts to enhance Wales' connectivity and visibility in Brussels in the post-Brexit period.

We will consider the future of the role during this year, taking account of how the role has worked, and assessing the broader context of the Wales-EU relationship.

Progress against the International Strategy

Flexibility is key to achieving the ambitions of the International Strategy. When it was written, no-one would have predicted war in Europe, the shift in the geopolitical landscape, or the fact that many of our longest-standing partner countries, such as Japan, would be forced to close their borders for more than two years hampering trade and tourism. These challenges have taught us that we have to react to change.

In fact, there is a view that global events over the last few years have increased our profile. Diplomatic and international visits into Wales are increasing rapidly. Diplomats arrive in Wales with a significant knowledge of the country, our culture and our policies. I frequently get asked specific questions about Wales' approach during the pandemic, innovative policy approaches - such as the Taith programme - or about our action to safeguard and strengthen the Welsh language. Other events, particularly sporting ones, have raised the profile of the country and we have worked hard to make the most of these. The Men's Football World Cup is an obvious one and very high profile. But it is important to remember our activities in other tournaments - including the Women's Rugby World Cup in New Zealand, the Commonwealth Games in England and the Men's Hockey World Cup in India.

The [2022-23 Annual Report](#) and the statement I made during [Plenary on 13 June](#) provides a good summary of progress on our international activity.

Co-ordinating activity with the UK Government overseas to ensure Value for Money

Our International Strategy and Export Action Plan commit us to working closely with our partners in-market, including overseas missions and embassies, to amplify our voice overseas and deliver our in-market activities/trade missions.

Where appropriate, we work jointly with the Department for Business & Trade's (DBT) overseas networks and UK Embassies to support the delivery of trade mission activity, including the delivery of in-market briefing sessions for Welsh businesses, organise networking receptions, joint stands with UK Government pavilions at targeted global trade exhibitions, to maximise opportunities and ensure value for money.

Where we have Welsh Government offices, the in-market teams develop relationships with their DBT and FCDO colleagues looking for opportunities to cooperate on key events and activities.

Overseas colleagues work with DBT colleagues to promote opportunities for Welsh companies to participate in overseas DBT initiatives such as in-bound and out-bound sector missions, virtual/physical conferences and events and business/ academic/ expert speaking opportunities.

Overseas teams also seek UK colleague's engagement with Wales-led projects such as St David's Day and our "Wales in..." initiatives. The French Ambassador, for example, recently hosted the launch and supported other activities for Wales in France 2023. And we had a close working relationship with the UK Embassy in Qatar throughout the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

In markets where we don't have an office, we work on a reactive basis building links with local governments and economic development agencies to develop opportunities for Welsh exports and uncover any linked investment opportunities.

Delivery against the Overseas Office Remits

I am very proud of what our overseas offices have delivered in 2022-23 – and have had the chance to see some of that in person through my programmes in Dublin and Cork, Qatar, Brussels and Paris. The annual report shows an extensive array of activity that they have delivered against their remits.

As well as delivering on trade and investment, our offices have also undertaken considerable work in terms of projecting Wales' values and our commitment to working in partnership as a globally responsible partner. They have promoted Wales' innovative programmes and policies such as Taith and the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

They have worked with colleagues across the Welsh Government to support Programme for Government and other commitments in education, sport, education, tourism, culture, Welsh Language, sustainable futures and science to promote Wales' distinct propositions and ideas to collaborate to solve our global challenges of climate change and decarbonisation.

The overseas offices have worked with Wales delivery partners and overseas stakeholders from sector forums and business clusters, including those where we have established strategic international partnerships such as the Urdd, Wales Arts International, Future Generations Commissioner's Office, and Academi Heddwch – as well as other partnerships with British Council Wales, Global Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru. These partnerships are growing year-on-year and combined efforts are delivering more impact internationally.

In Europe, the team has also been active in developing key European networks, such as the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions (CPMR) and Vanguard Initiative to support the delivery of European aspects of our economic, academic, science and research and innovation objectives.

Our combined international marketing and communications reach has also increased significantly - discovering some new, innovative ways to tell Wales' story - particularly through digital channels - reaching new audiences in engaging ways, as well as some success stories with traditional TV and press coverage e.g. Wales in Canada, Wales in France, FIFA World Cup.

Monitoring and evaluation of international activity

Soft power, by the very nature of its activity, is difficult to measure, but is a valuable tool in our international engagement.

The Annual Report sets out publicly what we have achieved over the past year. It includes three case studies – the FIFA 2022 World Cup, Wales in Canada 2022 and our approach to Europe. Each overseas office also has a published remit which sets out how it will support the delivery of the International Strategy and its action plans.

Each of the Action Plans contain a series of short- and long-term objectives which contain a mix of tangible and intangible outcomes.

It is relatively easy to measure attendance and engagement at our overseas events. The number of companies attending a trade mission or trade show, the value of export deals signed at these events all provide very tangible outcomes - as do the number of attendees at a diaspora reception or networking event.

Where it is difficult to measure the outcomes, we can use metrics - such as communications - to understand the reach of our activity. Not all our activity can be measured in this way but each of our overseas teams uses social media to promote Wales in line with the ambitions of the International Strategy.


The media coverage of Wales throughout the Minister for Economy's visit to Washington DC for the Wales v USA game was wide and varied, including radio and television interviews. The Washington Post had the 'Soccer in the Circle' event as the front page of its Metro supplement, plus a double page inside spread, which included interviews with American alumni who had studied in Wales. This type of engagement is valuable but difficult to measure – readership is estimated at over 655,000 in the DC Metro area and more than 63 million people access the Washington Post's website.

A fuller evaluation of the Qatar World Cup is still taking place and is expected to be published in July.

Ministerial Overseas Travel Costs

All ministerial overseas travel costs will be published in line with the timetables set out in the Ministerial Code. A Written Statement outlines the programme for each visit and ensures that Members - and the public - can see the breadth of activity undertaken on an overseas visit.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD

Wales in Canada 2022

Below is the full list of activity between March 2022 – February 2023.

Activity	Where
<u>March</u>	
• Launch Wales in Canada - FM message	Virtual - Canada/ Wales
• Launch Wales in Canada - HC to UK message	Virtual - Canada/ Wales
• Launch Wales in Canada - Reception on Ice	Ottawa, Ontario
• Panel on indigenous languages in music	Virtual - Canada/ Wales
• St David's Day activities	London, UK
• Expo Dubai	Dubai, UAE
• Parliamentary Internship Programme visit to Wales	Cardiff, Wales
• Cyber UK	Newport, Wales
<u>April</u>	
• Nuclear Trade Mission	Ottawa, Ontario
• Global Wales Scholarship extended to Canadian Students	Virtual - Canada/ Wales
• Agent General for Ontario visit to Cardiff	Cardiff, Wales
<u>May</u>	
• World AI Summit	Montreal, Quebec
• FOCUS Wales	Wrexham, Wales
• Canada Goes Cymru Launch	Wrexham, Wales
• Metropolis Blue Montreal	Montreal, Quebec
• Urdd peace message	Virtual - Canada/ Wales
• Launch of Wales-Quebec joint call for proposals	Virtual – Quebec/ Wales
• Alumni Event Toronto	Toronto Ontario
• Visit to Welsh Church Toronto	Toronto Ontario
<u>June</u>	
• Jubilee Garden Party	Ottawa Ontario
• Doors Open Ottawa	Ottawa Ontario
• HMS Protector event – Montreal & Quebec City	Quebec City, Quebec
• Wales Coast Path press trip	Wales
• Canadian Poet in Wales through Wales-Quebec Call for proposals	Aberystwyth, Wales
• Banff Cultural Centre visit – National Indigenous People's Day	Banff, Alberta
• Cor Gogledd America concert – Banff & Calgary	Banff & Calgary

<u>July</u>	
• Marking 6 month of WiC	Virtual
• Commonwealth Games	Birmingham, UK
• Farnborough International Airshow	Farnborough, UK
<u>August</u>	
• Donna Screening	Ottawa
• Welsh Women Rugby Team in Canada: Wales v Canada match	Halifax
<u>September</u>	
• Trade Mission to Canada	Ottawa / Toronto / Halifax
• Toronto International Film Festival	Toronto
• WFG Commissioner visit	Montreal/ Ottawa / Vancouver
• Welsh Event Vancouver	Vancouver, BC
• Wales Arts International Visit	Montreal Ottawa, Vancouver
<u>October</u>	
• Breakout West	Calgary, Alberta
<u>November</u>	
• SoftPowerCymru Podcast Launch	Virtual - Canada/ Wales
• Ontario & Wales at Medica Düsseldorf	Düsseldorf, Germany
• CAMH/Wales Symposium: Digital Mental Health from Policy to Practice	Virtual - Ontario/ Wales
• M for Montreal	Montreal Quebec
• Announce results of Call for Proposals	Quebec & Wales
• BC Creative x Creative Wales Trade reception	London, UK
• FIFA World Cup events	Canada
<u>December</u>	
• Minister for Climate Change Visit to Montreal	Montreal, Quebec
• WG presence at Biodiversity COP15 Summit	Montreal, Quebec
• End of year message from MCC	Virtual – Canada/ Wales
• FM responds to Yukon TikTokker	Virtual The Yukon
<u>January</u>	
• FM interview on CBC Radio	Virtual The Yukon
<u>February</u>	
• Yukon TikTokker visits Wales	Wales

Outcomes & Achievements

Wales in Canada key achievements and outcomes included:

Education

- The extension of the Global Wales Postgraduate Scholarship to students from Canada. So far, over more than 100 students from Wales are to study in Canada through the Taith programme, and this Scholarship aims to encourage even more links between higher education institutions in Wales and those in Canada.

Arts

- Wales Arts International signing an agreement with the *Conseil des arts et des lettres du Québec* (CALQ) for three reciprocal artistic residencies between Wales and Quebec, supporting six artists. The first of these will begin with a Welsh artist taking up residency at the *Centre des musiciens du monde* in Montreal in September 2023.
- Screening of the film 'Donna': Screening event to premier the film 'Donna' at Ottawa's Capital Pride. The event included a Q&A with Welsh director Jay Bedwani, Welsh producer Dewi Gregory, and protagonist Donna Persona who was flown out from San Francisco by the US Embassy Ottawa, who we partnered with on the event.

Strengthening relationships

- Following the alumni and diaspora events, new contacts were made and used to facilitate other events throughout the year, such as World Cup watch parties.
- Policy roundtable between the Future Generations Commissioner's and Vancouver Economic Commission (VEC), focussed on First Nations approaches to well-being and knowledge sharing between Wales and Canada.
- Ongoing discussions with the Ontario Government about signing a Memorandum of Understanding across a range of sectors for mutual benefit, with an accompanying action plan, in 2023.
- A pipeline of follow up activity from the Minister of Climate Change visit to Montreal in December 2022; the first inward visit to Wales by one of the Canadian stakeholders met is planned for June 2023.
- 12 joint projects between Welsh and Quebec-based stakeholders approved for 2022 in collaboration with the Quebec Government to be undertaken in 2023, with a fourth Call for Proposals to be launched in spring 2023.

Raising Wales' profile

- Three Canadian television networks covered our work, the Globe and Mail (with a readership of over seven million) published a full-length op-ed. The First Minister also delivered an audio interview with CBC.
- Our collaboration with a Canadian social media influencer from the Yukon generated over 5.3million views for the commissioned Wales content across TikTok and Instagram alone, with nearly 750,000 likes and comments.
- The collaboration was a news story for major news organisations in Canada and Wales, with articles and interviews about this work appearing online and on primetime television broadcasts.
- The Welsh women's rugby team played the Canadian women's rugby team in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in the run-up to the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand in October 2022. The match was used to host local business, political, and diaspora contacts. The match was broadcast on S4C in Wales and the main sports channel in Canada, TSN. We also undertook some corporate sponsorship of the match to market tourism to Wales.

International Relations Diplomatic Visits – June 2023

INWARD VISITS – JUNE 2023

- 05 June** **Visit by the Minister President of Flanders**
The First Minister and Minister President signed an [MOU](#), and the Minister President also took part in a broader programme, which included a showcase of the Wales Tech and Cultural sectors.
- 08 June** **Visit by the UK Ambassador to Qatar**
HMA visited Wales to follow up on the visits made by the FM and Minister for Economy to Qatar during the World Cup. He attended a lunch, hosted by the Economy Minister, with Cardiff Airport and the FAW.
- 08 June** **Visit by the Catalan government in the UK**
A delegation from Catalonia House in London visited Wales to identify areas of potential collaboration with the prospect of a refreshed and renewed MOU being signed between Wales and Catalonia in the future.
- 13 June** **Visit to Wales by the High Commissioner of Malta to the UK**
Bilateral with the First Minister to discuss future cooperation and trade.
- 28 June** **Visit by the Swiss Ambassador to the UK**
Bilateral with the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport & Tourism to discuss the current Free Trade Agreement negotiations, Wales' life science and fintech capabilities and areas of cooperation.

OUTWARD VISITS – JUNE 2023

- 19 June** **Minister for Economy at Paris Air Show**
The Economy Minister travelled to Paris to visit the Wales Pavilion and take part in a programme to showcase our aerospace and space sectors and included meetings with prominent global aerospace companies and current inward investors. The visit formed part of the wider Wales in France 2023 celebrations.
<https://www.gov.wales/wales-flying-high-paris-air-show>

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

6 July 2023

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter of 7 June which requested further information following my attendance at the Committee's annual scrutiny session of the Wales/Ireland relationship on 10 May.

Budget allocation

The Welsh Government office in Ireland has an annual budget to deliver the objectives of the international strategy. In addition, there is a separate annual focused budget to deliver the aims of the shared statement and joint action plan which for 2023/24 is £40k. The budget in the past has been utilised across a number of themes including supporting Welsh cultural artists perform in Ireland and bring together a wide range of stakeholders to mark St David's Day in Ireland.

Secondment into Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs

The Welsh Government secondment into Ireland's Department of Foreign Affairs looking at Ireland's diaspora engagement has now come to an end. A final report on the approach and delivery by the Irish Government of their global diaspora strategy is being collated and a summary will be issued to the Committee once finalised.

Continuation of the PEACE PLUS programme

Officials are closely monitoring developments with implementation of the €1bn PEACE Plus Programme through regular contact with the Northern Ireland Executive and with the Programme Managing Authority, the Special European Union Programmes Body (SEUPB). The Programme's primary aim is (of course), to support peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland, however there is sufficient flexibility within the Programme to enable stakeholders outside the immediate eligible area to join North-South projects where there is demonstrable added value in doing so.

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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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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.

The Welsh Government's Irish Sea Framework, part of Agile Cymru, is actively encouraging and influencing co-operation across and around the Irish Sea space. Partners in Wales are being kept informed of potential opportunities to engage with PEACE Plus and provided with advice, guidance and support through Agile Cymru.

Wales-Ireland relations framework interaction with other Welsh Government initiatives

Our Wales-Ireland relations are underpinned by close relationships between all involved parties at all levels. There are close relationships across the Welsh Government with Irish counterparts – at both Ministerial and official level. These relationships deliver across Welsh Government priorities and our Programme for Government. They are developed bilaterally and through engagement at fora like the British Irish Council.

Through the Ireland/Wales Shared Statement we have brought together much of this activity. The statement sets out how we can work together on shared policy areas and provides a framework to support our engagement.

Many Ministers have individual areas of responsibility – as is demonstrated through the strength of our Ministerial engagement at both the Ireland/Wales Forum and British Irish Council. As First Minister I have overall Ministerial responsibility.

All these initiatives have different purposes and are complementary. The International Strategy covers the breadth of our international engagement. The Shared Statement and Joint Action Plan then sets out in more detail the areas where we can work together and sets a framework for our bilateral engagement across the board.

The Irish Sea Framework has been developed as part of Agile Cymru and involves a broader set of partners, including other Devolved Governments and stakeholders. It guides and influences actions to increase economic co-operation across and around the Irish Sea space. It complements the Ireland Wales Shared Statement and Joint Action Plan and builds upon the existing achievements within the Ireland Wales programme and other relevant EU funded programmes.

Wales-Ireland co-operation post Brexit

The Welsh Government, and our stakeholders, continue to highlight the successes of the Ireland-Wales programme and disseminate the knowledge and resources it has helped develop. This was a feature of our second Irish Sea Symposium on 16 May and will be a feature of an Ireland Wales programme celebration event in Dublin in June.

You are aware how Agile Cymru and our Irish Sea Framework are helping maintain the networks and capacity for future cooperation. This is supporting a 'coalition of the willing' of stakeholders across and around the Irish Sea, with the potential to lever in further resources and funding. The strong demand for the current Agile Cymru Irish Sea funding initiative demonstrates the desire for continuing co-operation. As I mentioned, Welsh and Irish officials are also exploring the potential for a new cooperation mechanism, and I look forward to progress on that during the Autumn.

Welsh and Irish Government officials regularly meet to discuss progress against the Shared Statement and other issues and close relations are maintained with the Ireland Consul General in Cardiff. The strategic partners we fund through International Relations budget engage with Ireland and last month, Welsh Government officials attended the

Circular Economy Hotspot in Dublin, a major international event, ahead of it coming to Wales in 2024. We will continue to work with the organisers in Ireland to learn lessons ahead of the event taking place here.

Access to Horizon Europe

The Welsh Government has always been clear that association to Horizon Europe was the preferred option.–It is now encouraging that that the political blockages appear to have been put to one side and that discussions are underway with a view to finalising association. However, it is impossible to predict how long the negotiations will take and whether they will conclude with association.

The current guarantee has now been extended until September. In case association is not secured in the short term, thought will have to turn to making use of the budget allocated to Horizon Europe this financial year. We see association as a win-win and all sides need to keep their eye on the long term, not scoring short term financial gains.

Stakeholder awareness of the Shared statement and joint action plan

It is important to remember that the Shared Statement is an agreement between the Welsh and Irish Governments, and we are responsible for delivering the plan. Delivery of the Statement engages a wide range of partners who have been given the mechanism through the Shared Statement to develop lasting connections.

Our strategic partners are in an ideal position to take forward work to deliver the wider aims of the International Strategy and we have a number of agreements in place which allow our external partners to work with us and deliver its ambitions, including the Shared Statement. However, this is not the only mechanism we have to support partners in their international work.

We also have Strategic Partnership Agreements in place with Wales Arts International, the Future Generations Commissioners Office and the Urdd to help to deliver our ambitions. Each of these partners has activity set out in their Partnership Agreement which was jointly agreed with Welsh Government. The activity referenced in the Shared Statement came before these Partnership Agreements and helped to shape how we work with such organisations. The annual Strategic Partnership Agreements are created through a consultative process and include activity across our priority markets, including Ireland.

The Statement was a vehicle for bringing together existing activity and giving it shape and coherence. It was not intended to be developed using a consultative approach, therefore, existing partner activity was taken into consideration. The Strategic Partnership Agreements build on this and are consultative joint documents.

We work closely with organisations such as the British Irish Chamber of Commerce and Cork Chamber in Ireland and they have supported numerous trade missions. Our most recent trade mission to Ireland involved the Chamber of Commerce in Ireland and the Chamber attended our in-market briefing session for the companies. Chambers Wales indirectly supports our trade missions, including to Ireland, by providing its usual support services to companies and this type of existing support is reflected in the Statement rather than it being a bespoke call to action.

First Minister's role at the British-Irish Council

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the British-Irish Council (BIC) as it was established under the Belfast Agreement of 1998. It continues to provide a forum for representatives from across these islands to come together to share challenges and best practice. This can be at Head of Government or Administration level (as at the twice-yearly summits), right down to official level via our agreed joint work sectors. I'm proud that Wales leads on two work sectors (Early Years Policy; and Indigenous, Minority & Lesser Used Languages) and jointly lead, with Scottish Government, another (Social Inclusion) - we can learn so much from the experiences of our neighbours.

Our role at the Council hasn't been changed by EU Exit - and indeed in my view the fact of EU exit has only strengthened the importance of BIC and our relationships. But the practical effects of EU Exit have naturally been topics of conversation at the relevant meetings and it's, of course, a regular feature when we discuss latest political developments.

Refreshing the Cooperation beyond 2025 and the inclusion of stakeholders

In our evidence paper we said we are giving early consideration to a future or revised statement after 2025. We know from our stakeholders that the statement provides a strong platform for continued collaborative working and there is outline support and appetite for that to continue. We have however not yet begun discussions with the Irish Government about what any new Statement might look like and it would be inappropriate for me to comment more at this stage.

In the evidence paper we also highlight the areas we want to focus on for the remainder of the current Statement. That includes education links, future funding, economic and trade cooperation, political engagement and policy sharing.

However, you can be assured that should we develop a further agreement, and with an opportunity to do it in a post-Covid context, we will engage and involve stakeholders on their priorities as we have done in delivering the plan. Our achievements to date have been based on collaboration and a Team Wales approach and we have seen connections such as those between our national museums and youth movements flourish. Any future initiatives will seek to learn from and build on that.

Shared Statement with Germany and using the Wales/Ireland relations as a blueprint

Wales has a long-standing relationship with Germany and the Baden-Württemberg region, having originally signed a memorandum of understanding in 1990. We are planning to sign a new Shared Statement with Baden-Württemberg, one of the 16 German Bundesländer in the southwest of Germany, in the autumn. The Scottish Government also signed a new agreement with the region last year.

Germany is an important trading partner with Wales and Baden-Württemberg is Germany's largest industrial powerhouse and strongest export region. Its economy is shaped by the manufacturing industry and small and medium-sized businesses that make up 99% of the economy. The automotive industry accounts for around 30% of industrial turnover, followed by the mechanical engineering and plant construction, and metal and electronic industries, chemical, pharmaceutical and optical industries.

Making a connection with this region is more than economic but offers an opportunity to demonstrate that we are an outward looking European nation keen to share, learn and innovate. Baden-Württemberg is a region which shares our values in terms of sustainability and is one of the Four Motors for Europe of which Wales is an associate member and an important member of the Under2 Coalition.

This Shared Statement will reinstate our commitment and sets out our shared interests and ambitions across many key issues from trade and entrepreneurship to culture and communities.

The Shared Statement framework offers a model in which we can consider for use elsewhere, but international agreements should not be constrained by such an approach and other ways of working are more long-standing and may be more appropriate in different circumstances. Different places have different cultures and ways of working and the most important thing for me is not that we sign an agreement or that our agreements follow the same template – it is the action, the collaboration, the sustainable networks that flow from these.

That is why in the case of Baden-Württemberg, we are not waiting for the formal signing of documents. Agile Cymru is already supporting Welsh businesses and organisations to take forward economic cooperation with the region, as it did last financial year.

I am in favour of focussed targeted plans. For example, in our developing work with Silesia, we are looking at a small number of areas, like tourism, where we can undertake focussed work together, sharing learning and inspiring action.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MARK DRAKEFORD

Agenda Item 3.6

Y Pwyllgor Cyllid

Finance Committee

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Rebecca Evans MS,
Minister for Finance and Local Government

7 July 2023

Draft Budget Timetable 2024-25

Dear Rebecca,

The Committee noted your proposed timetable for the 2024-25 budget at its meeting on 6 July 2023.

We consider this approach to be highly disappointing: As a Committee we have regularly called for sufficient time to be provided for the scrutiny of the Welsh Government's budgetary proposals, and for that to be in line with the Budget Process Protocol ('the Protocol'), which was agreed on a cross-party basis in 2017.

We have written to you on a number of occasions about the practical difficulties that shortened timescales pose to Committees in fulfilling their scrutiny functions, as well as the pressures it puts on stakeholders who wish to submit evidence and engage with our work, particularly when three weeks of that period falls over Christmas recess.

Most recently, I wrote to you on 23 June 2023 noting the concerns expressed by the vast majority of Committee Chairs regarding the timeliness of the budget process and the lack of time available for proper scrutiny. We are therefore extremely disheartened that these views were not reflected when this timetable was proposed. Furthermore, although we very briefly touched upon the budget timetable towards the end of our meeting on 20 June, we did not discuss specific dates, as indicated in your letter, and there was no opportunity for me to raise concerns given the lack of information shared at that point regarding your proposals.

Insufficient reasons for delay

Paragraph 11 of the Protocol states that a "budget/financial year will not be "normal" when there is significant uncertainty in respect of the Welsh Government's future financial position". It adds that:

"Although this list is not exhaustive, examples would include when there are no future budget figures provided by the UK Government; there is a UK fiscal event such as a Comprehensive Spending Review or Emergency Budget; or a significant change in the overall fiscal outlook such as an economic shock or changes affecting UK tax policy."

We have, in each of the past four years, accepted the arguments that there were significant levels of funding uncertainty to delay the laying of the draft budget. Whilst we acknowledge that the Chancellor of the Exchequer has not yet published the date of the fiscal event in the autumn, we do not consider this to be a compelling reason in itself to delay the publication of the Welsh Government's budgetary proposals and do not agree that this is the only prudent choice available to you.

As you point out, indicative budget allocations are already available to the Welsh Government, and whilst we accept that inflationary pressures remain high, they are sadly unsurprising and do not, in our view, amount to "significant uncertainty" in your funding position which necessitates a diversion from the 'normal' process outlined in the budget protocol.

We neither accept that the delay is wholly as a result of matters that are outside your control. As Minister responsible for the budget, you have significant discretion to decide when the Welsh Government's spending plans are published which, in turn, dictates how much time Senedd Committees have to conduct the scrutiny required.

As you are aware, this is the fifth year in a row that the two stage process set out in the Protocol has not been followed and the request to delay the budget process again this year, suggests that there are few circumstances that could be considered a "normal" year.

The protocol was intended to allow the Finance Committee to take an oversight role by allowing more time for policy committees to undertake scrutiny and enable them to take more evidence from stakeholders.

Your willingness to avoid following this process again calls into question your commitment to these agreed practices, given that the timing of budget scrutiny in recent years has not made this possible.

Lack of consultation

We also note that you consulted the Committee on your decision to delay the publication of the Draft Budget 2023-24 last year. It is therefore regrettable that a similar approach was not adopted again.

In years when the Welsh Government considers delaying the publication of the Draft Budget and circumvents the two stage process outlined in the Protocol, the Committee expects mature discourse and meaningful consultation on such issues and not doing so casts doubt over commitments you have made previously to working constructively and in partnership to improve our budget processes.

Next steps

I welcome your willingness to revisit the publication dates of the Draft Budget if the Chancellor's announcement regarding the dates of an autumn fiscal event was sufficiently early to allow additional time for its preparation and scrutiny.

We will keep a close eye on these developments and hope that further clarity on the timing of these issues will lead to more time for scrutiny of your budget proposals as soon as possible in the autumn term.

I am copying this letter to the Trefnydd and the Chairs of Senedd Committees, given its impact on their work programmes and in light of the concerns and comments previously expressed on these issues.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair of the Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu'n Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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Agenda Item 9

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

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Agenda Item 10.2

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

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