

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2, Senedd

Meeting date: 29 November 2023

Meeting time: 11.30 – 12.30

For further information contact:

Haidee James, Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Pre-meeting registration

(11.15 – 11.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(11.30)

2 HSBC UK Welsh Service Line: evidence session with HSBC UK

(11.30 – 12.15)

(Pages 1 – 8)

- Jose Carvalho, Head of Wealth and Personal Banking, HSBC UK

Attached Documents:

- Research brief: HSBC UK Welsh Service Line

3 Papers to note

(12.15)

3.1 Wales–Ireland relations

(Pages 9 – 12)

Attached Documents:

- Senedd Commission response: Wales–Ireland relations: Exploring an old relationship in a new age – November 2023
- Senedd BIPA Delegation response: Wales–Ireland relations: Exploring an old relationship in a new age – November 2023



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

(12.15)

5 HSBC UK Welsh Service Line: consideration of evidence

(12.15 – 12.30)

Document is Restricted

Delyth Jewell AS

Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau

Rhyngwladol

Senedd Cymru

Caerdydd

CF99 1SN

23 November 2023

Dear Chair,

Response to Committee Report — Wales-Ireland Relations



Thank you for the copy of your recent report. The British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) is an important element of the Senedd's inter-parliamentary work, recognised and appreciated by Members of all parties. As Llywydd and Chair of the Commission, I support this work so that the participating Members and subsequently, the Senedd as a whole, benefits from this political structure.

I note recommendation number 15, relating to the work of the Senedd and requesting a view from the Commission on the potential increase in the number of BIPA committees, considerations on increasing the number of Senedd representatives and filling the vacant seat.



Whilst I wish to support BIPA activity as much as possible, matters relating to the BIPA structures, including any increase in the size of the Senedd delegation, are ultimately matters for the Senedd. Similarly, nominations to the BIPA delegation are made by the political groups and, per BIPA rules, reflect the political makeup of the Senedd. I am aware that Commission officials have drawn the specific recommendation - as well as the wider issues raised in the report - to the attention of the Senedd's nominated BIPA delegates, who may wish to respond to the Committee.



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The Commission's direct involvement in BIPA is to provide support for Senedd representation at BIPA plenary meetings and BIPA sub-committee attendance. This currently includes funding the cost of Member travel and providing research and administrative support for Members participating in BIPA activities. As such, BIPA is a key element in the delivery of the Senedd Commission's International Framework, which provides accountability, clarity and direction to the international parliamentary activity resourced by the Senedd Commission. It serves as the foundation for organising priorities for support provided. One of the principles of the framework states:

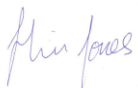
"... our international activities will:

1. Be focused on Parliamentary business, enabling the Senedd to deliver its core function of representing the interests of Wales and its people by enhancing the exchange of knowledge, ideas and experience;"

As this report highlights, BIPA is one forum for bilateral engagements between Wales and Ireland, but indeed there are other methods that the Senedd and its political structures can implement to promote bi-lateral relations, and the Commission's International Framework facilitates that work.

Any increase in BIPA activities may give rise to resource implications. Recognising the importance of BIPA, the Commission would consider any implications as part of its business and budget planning, in consultation with relevant Members, in light of the commitments in the International Framework.

Kind regards,



Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS

Llywydd and Chair of the Senedd Commission

Croesevir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg / We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English



Delyth Jewell MS, Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and
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Senedd Cymru
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23 November 2023

Dear Chair,

Response to Committee Report & Recommendation — Wales-Ireland Relations



The Senedd BIPA Delegation welcomes the consideration of British Irish Parliamentary Assembly (BIPA) as part of this inquiry into Wales-Ireland relations and the recognition of its important role in facilitating these relationships. The delegation also welcomes the opportunity to discuss its BIPA involvement with the Committee.

The delegation will consider ways in which BIPA's work can be fed back to Senedd Business, including through committees. This is currently an active discussion owing to the BIPA Steering Committee's work on the strategic direction of the Assembly, which made suggestions around annual reporting of Committee work to inform debates in participating legislatures, and the communication of BIPA Committee reports to appropriate committees in each legislature. We anticipate this dialogue will continue at our next Plenary, as will discussions around increasing or reviewing the mandates of BIPA Committees.



We're aware that in implementing the Commission's International Framework, officials are seeking to coordinate international activity, including that of BIPA, in a way that is aligned with Senedd Business. The BIPA delegation is conscious of its role in facilitating the effective coordination of resources to support the Senedd's needs and the Commission's strategic aims and priorities.



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The Senedd Delegation will reflect on the Committee's recommendation relating to filling the vacant position, and consider, in light of ongoing BIPA discussions, the implications of any proposed changes to BIPA Committees for the delegation and associated Committee membership.

Yours sincerely,

David Rees MS, Deputy Presiding Officer

Heledd Fychan MS

Darren Millar MS

Sarah Murphy MS

Senedd BIPA Delegation

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

