

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 14 March 2024

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Lleu Williams

Committee Clerk

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Hybrid

Pre-meeting registration

(09.15 – 09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Culture and the new relationship with the European Union: Evidence session with Member of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education (6)

(09.30 – 10.15)

(Pages 1 – 18)

Laurence Farreng MEP, Member of the European Parliament Committee on Culture and Education

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

Welsh Government written evidence

3 Paper(s) to note

(10.15)



3.1 Windsor Framework and the Border Target Operating Model

(Pages 19 – 20)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee to the Minister of State at the Cabinet Office: Border Target Operating Model and the Windsor Framework – 13 February 2024

3.2 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

(Pages 21 – 27)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee – 26 February 2024

Letter from the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee – 5 March 2024

Letter from the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: Culture and Creative Industries Inter-Ministerial Group – 1 March 2024

Letter from the Minister for Economy to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: UK-EU Relations Inter-Ministerial Group – 4 March 2024

3.3 Allegations concerning bullying at S4C

(Pages 28 – 36)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair, S4C: S4C Action Plan and Appointment of Interim Chief Executive – 29 February 2024

Annex

3.4 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25

(Pages 37 – 54)

Attached Documents:

Letter from The National Library of Wales: Concerns about the predicted cuts to budgets – 19 February 2024

Letter from the Welsh Government – 1 March 2024

Welsh Government's response to the Committee's Report on its scrutiny of the Welsh Government's 24/25 Draft Budget and letter regarding the impact of budget reductions on arms-length bodies – 1 March 2024

Letter from Aberystwyth Town Council: Call to increase the arts and culture budget – 4 March 2024

Letter from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language: Additional information following evidence session on 11 January 2024 – 5 March 2024

3.5 Year of Wales and India

(Pages 55 – 57)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the First Minister: Wales in India 2024 – 6 March 2024

3.6 Welsh Government international relations

(Page 58)

Attached Documents:

Ministerial International Engagement – February 2024

3.7 Public service broadcasting in Wales

(Pages 59 – 60)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism: Scrutiny of Public Service Broadcasting – 12 March 2024

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from items 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 of this meeting

(10.15)

**5 Culture and the new relationship with the European Union:
Presentation of citizen engagement findings**

(10.15 – 10.25)

(Pages 61 – 76)

Attached Documents:

Citizen engagement findings

**6 Culture and the new relationship with the European Union:
Consideration of evidence**

(10.25 – 10.35)

Break

(10.35 – 10.45)

**7 Six Nations rugby broadcasting rights: Consideration of draft
report**

(10.45 – 11.15)

(Pages 77 – 97)

Attached Documents:

Draft Report

8 Consideration of the forward work programme for summer 2024

(11.15 – 11.45)

(Pages 98 – 107)

Attached Documents:

Forward work programme for summer 2024

Terms of Reference for a one day inquiry on Welsh language post-16
education provision

Break

(11.45 – 12.00)

Public

9 Culture and the new relationship with the EU: Evidence session with Brexit experts (7)

(12.00 – 13.00)

Professor Catherine Barnard, University of Cambridge

Dr Charlotte Faucher, University of Bristol

Private

10 Culture and the new relationship with the European Union: Consideration of evidence

(13.00 – 13.10)

11 Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans–Pacific Partnership (CPTPP): UK and Welsh Government analyses

(13.10 – 13.20)

(Pages 108 – 124)

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

12 International Agreements: UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

(13.20 – 13.30)

(Pages 125 – 143)

Attached Documents:

Research Brief

Letter from the Welsh Government – 6 March 2024

Annex

Letter from the UK Government – 8 March 2024

Document is Restricted



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

EVIDENCE PAPER TO THE CULTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, WELSH LANGUAGE, SPORT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The impact of the UK's exit from the EU on the culture sector.

Introduction

The impact of the UK's exit from the EU has been felt across the cultural sector. Under the arm's-length-funding principle, all Welsh Government funding for the arts in Wales is channelled through the Arts Council of Wales (ACW). Wales Arts International (WAI) is the international agency of ACW. WAI provides advice and support to artists and arts organisations from Wales who work internationally. It is a contact point for international artists organisations and agencies working in, or connecting with, Wales.

The impact of the new relationship on artists and creative workers touring and working cross-border.

From a freedom of movement perspective, for artists and creative workers from Wales working in EU countries, the impact of the UK's exit from the EU is that without freedom of movement, artists need to understand the regulations for whichever EU member state they are travelling to – both in terms of border entry/visas and any work permit regulations relevant to what they are planning to do and how long they are planning to stay.

This is made more complex when artists or companies are touring as there's a need to understand different rules in different countries. The Schengen area rule of allowing maximum visitor stays of 90 in 180 days can be prohibitive for touring companies and individual creative workers. WAI reports that it has impacted in particular on the music industry and UK crew who would have previously been booked to work on lengthy European tours.

The existence of the Common Travel Area has gone some way to enabling the movement of people between Wales and Ireland to continue, which is helpful in the arts sector when working cross border on some short term and longer-term projects. Equally, artists and creative workers from the EU who come to work in Wales have had to understand the new UK border entry requirements and routes that apply to them, as have some of the venues and festivals here. These have generally been through Permitted Paid Engagement, Creative Worker Sponsorship and also some festivals have used the Permit Free Festival route.

The impact of the new relationship on European artists and creative workers touring and working in Wales.

Overall, WAI is being told by the sector that there is an increased administrative and financial burden on the sector, especially individuals and smaller companies (which is predominantly what we have in Wales), due to the processes involved and the associated costs. In a recent survey from UK Music, almost one in three music creators who responded to the survey said their earnings had been affected since the UK's official exit from the EU, and 43% of those hit by Brexit said it was no longer viable for them to tour the EU.

These issues will also have an impact on emerging bands and musicians in particular, on the offers and opportunities to tour internationally. Some organisations funded by ACW have direct experience of the increased administrative and financial burden on them when touring in the EU, including NoFit State, Hijinx and National Dance Company Wales.

At a cultural level, there is a willingness to continue with collaborations between individuals and companies in Wales and the EU - but there is also a perception and sometimes a nervousness expressed that working with the UK/EU will be more problematic.

From a linguistic perspective, there is a significant loss in terms of omnilingual projects coming into Wales supported by the Creative Europe programme. There is also a gap for the Welsh language in terms of the support available for collaborations between minority languages, through Territorial Cooperation projects (Interreg). Whilst there is good will from other minority cultures within the EU, and a sympathy toward Welsh language and culture, it's both more expensive and harder in term of barriers for our artists to be involved in projects funded by the EU.

The availability of guidance and support for your sector relating to the new relationship between the UK and EU.

Since the UK's exit from the EU, there are a number of places offering guidance and support for the cultural sector, but there are also gaps in that provision. WAI/ACW leads on the Arts Infopoint UK initiative, in partnership with Creative Scotland, Arts Council England and Arts Council Northern Ireland. Arts Infopoint UK has been supporting the sector in looking at some of the practical issues for artists – with a focus mainly on incoming to the UK, but also with outgoing mobility to the EU as many practical questions have been raised by the sector.

Arts Infopoint UK offers free, practical information to support and help artists, creative professionals, and organisations to understand the rules and administrative requirements for creative visits to the UK. This support has been in the form of webinars and online guides. Some of the webinars have had a focus on practical aspects such as visas or carnets, whilst others have looked at international funding opportunities (e.g. the Four Nations International fund).

Arts Infopoint UK is part of a wider network of Mobility Information Points across the EU and beyond. This group sits under the umbrella of the artist mobility network On the Move, which WAI/ACW is a member. The other mobility points provide practical information for artists travelling to their countries. Seven of them are based in EU member states. In particular, Touring Artists in Germany and Cultuurloket in Belgium have developed guidance and resources specifically for post Brexit questions.

In parallel, many of the UK sector lead bodies have set up specific support and guidance for their members. The music industry in particular has been at the forefront of this. Those who have developed resources include Independent, Musicians Union, Arts Admin, Association of British Orchestras, Outdoor Art and Help Musicians UK. The UK Government has a page on their website for visiting the UK as a creative professional.

PEARLE (Live Performance Europe) has several resources on their website that are useful for UK based creatives working in the EU. Overall, there is guidance available but, for example, the Mobility Information Points do not exist in every country so it can take a lot of time for individual artists and companies to find the information they need. Support, in terms of the financial support needed to cover the costs of the additional administration is needed.

The impact of the new relationship on trading arrangements relating to cultural activity.

WAI reports that the new trading arrangements with the EU have had an impact on the cultural sector, in particular those who are moving goods temporarily. For example, those moving theatre sets and props, musical instruments and equipment and artworks for exhibitions.

In many cases, where goods are being temporarily imported/exported and not being sold, no customs duties are due. However, there is often confusion surrounding this temporary admissions process and whether an ATA carnet is needed or not.

The ATA Carnet is expensive, and not always applicable to artists. There can be low confidence with artists preparing to use a carnet. The performing arts sector used it regularly and while it was suitable for large scale sets of regular performances or larger organisations, smaller organisations found it was not fit-for-purpose.

Musicians in particular, need to be aware of travelling with an instrument containing protected materials (such as ivory), will need a CITES certificate when crossing the EU-UK border. This is applicable to props and costumes too.

The BBC National Orchestra of Wales has told ACW that “we have to commit more resources (time and expertise) in relation to CITES requirements, cargo, and freight. Similarly, there are additional costs where items need to be imported/exported – e.g. if we are ordering equipment from EU countries. This is usually an additional 20% of costs”.

Any changes that would improve the operation of the UK's new relationship with the EU for the culture sector.

Wales has been hugely disadvantaged in several ways that impact the cultural sector, as a result of the UK leaving the EU. The seamless movement of people, and the single market in services and goods that supported the culture sector directly and indirectly, have been replaced with a very limited UK-EU agreement, the Trade & Co-operation Agreement (TCA). Whilst the TCA is fundamental to the Welsh economy as a basis for Wales (and the rest of the UK) to trade in goods with the EU, it does not provide a basis for free trade in services or a basis for the free movement of people to support the delivery of traded services.

The loss of free movement of people moving to perform and to engage in cultural activities has been very detrimental to opportunities for the promotion of Welsh culture across Wales, and for EU artists to come to Wales. Many of the UK sector lead bodies, especially in the music sector, have been lobbying the UK Government for a visa waiver for the cultural sector when touring in the EU/UK and for the reduction in administration burden especially for the temporary movement of cultural goods.

Recent reports and recommendations include Let the Music Move from UK Music Paying the Price from the ISM. While they are music specific, the issues cut across much of the performing arts sector.

Arts Infopoint UK partnered with On the Move for a webinar on EU/UK exchanges in the Visual Arts, resulting in a policy paper with recommendations on the EU side.

In addition, from outside the EU, Wales has no access to funds from the structural funds and Creative Europe that were very directly beneficial to a range of organisations. Following the UK exit from EU, the UK is no longer able to participate in the Creative Europe (MEDIA and Culture) programme which had facilitated valuable European co-production partnerships and funding for independent production companies across the UK to develop productions with international scope.

To counteract the UK no longer being able to access Creative Europe support, the UK government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), announced The Global Screen Fund (UKGSF), financed by DCMS and administered by the British Film Institute (BFI). The UKGSF was specifically designed to boost the international competitiveness of UK screen content through supporting international development, production, distribution, promotional and collaborative opportunities for the UK's independent screen sector and to provide targeted support across the screen sector, including film, TV, Documentary, animation and interactive narrative games content.

However, despite the remit of the UKGSF being to support independent companies across the UK, ensuring a UK-wide benefit and addressing geographic imbalance within the industry, it has not achieved the success of the former MEDIA and Creative Europe programmes and Wales has seen limited results, with disappointingly low level of Welsh applicants and grant recipients of the UKGSF to-date, compared to the far greater benefits (which were proportionally equal across UK recipients) that Welsh companies achieved from the MEDIA and Creative Europe Programmes.

There is a clear need to promote the UKGSF to better serve all the nations and regions, as well as exploring new European and International co-production and collaboration programmes to encourage overseas investment in the TV and Film sector.

The UK has continued to press the EU in recent months for a simplification of visa restrictions that would make touring the EU more affordable and straightforward for creative professionals such as musicians and visual artists. However, the EU view is that as a country that chose to be outside the EU, the UK has no particular basis to make a claim for such flexibilities. The Welsh Government will continue to press on this issue but realistically we do not expect a swift and satisfactory resolution of it.

Baroness Neville-Rolfe DBE CMG
Minister of State at the Cabinet Office
UK Government

13 February 2024

Dear Baroness Neville-Rolfe,

Thank you for attending the Committee on 7 February to discuss the Border Target Operating Model and the Windsor Framework. The Committee welcomes your suggestion to maintain a dialogue with the Committee as the Border Target Operating Model is rolled out through 2024 and beyond. Members found the session very useful. Following the session, Members had some questions and I agreed to write to you for clarification. I would be pleased if you could respond to the following:

- The Committee welcomed your statements that you are keen to reduce the 'current asymmetry of trade' and that the UK Government has worked closely with the Irish Government and Irish authorities to 'keep friction as small as possible for Welsh ports'. As part of this work, has the UK Government discussed with the EU the possibility to further reduce barriers on indirect movements of qualifying Northern Ireland goods between Wales, Ireland and Northern Ireland?
- You mentioned during the session that the UK Government is in touch with GB organisations. Would you be able to advise if any of these organisations are based in Wales?
- You advised that an announcement will be made shortly regarding the Common User Charge. Could you please notify the Committee when this is due to be made?
- Could you provide an update to the Committee on the UK-EU discussions on the Windsor Framework and Wales?

- The Welsh Government has repeatedly requested to attend meetings of the UK-EU Joint Committee when matters are discussed which have implications for Welsh ports. Is this a matter that could be reviewed in light of the developments discussed during the session?
- Please could you provide a written update on UK-EU conversations with the EU, including the five EU Member States of France, Belgium, Netherlands, Spain and Ireland. The Committee would be particularly interested in conversations with Ireland, given our geography.
- The Committee welcomes the activities you outlined to gather new data, however we are concerned this may not capture statistics relating to how many businesses may have ceased cross-border trading as a result of the post-Brexit regime. Would you be able to provide any statistics on that?

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Paul Davies MS

Chair: Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

Mick Antoniw AS/MS
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

Agenda Item 3.2



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: CG/PO/54/2024

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

26 February 2024

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to notify you that the sixth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC), which was due to place on 20 February 2024, has been postponed.

I will notify you once a new date has been confirmed.

I have copied this letter to the Llywydd, and to the Chairs of the Finance Committee, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, the Equality and Social Justice Committee, and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

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.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref CG/PO/72/2024
Ein cyf/Our ref CG/PO/72/2024

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

5 March 2024

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee

Further to my letter of 24 February and in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I can confirm the sixth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC) has been re-scheduled to take place on 12 March 2024.

I will be chairing the meeting and the topics for discussion will be unchanged.

I have copied this letter to the Llywydd, and to the Chairs of the Finance Committee, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, the Equality and Social Justice Committee, and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

I will provide an update after the meeting.

Mick Antoniw AS/MS
Y Cwnsler Cyffredinol a Gweinidog y Cyfansoddiad
Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution

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Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: DB/00072/24

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

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1 March 2024

Dear Huw

I am writing in respect of my earlier notification to you of 23 February, that a meeting of the Culture and Creative Industries Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), was scheduled to take place on 4 March.

Unfortunately, the meeting has been cancelled at the request of DCMS and a new date is being sought.

I would also like to inform you that I will be attending the Sport Inter-Ministerial Group on 1 March in Glasgow hosted by the Scottish Government.

I am also copying this letter to Mick Antoniw MS, the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution; the Rt Hon Elin Jones MS, the Llywydd; and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

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Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: VG-PO-068-24

Huw Irranca-Davies MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru
SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

4 March 2024

Dear Huw,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to notify you of the sixth meeting of the UK-EU Relations Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), which will take place on 6 March 2024.

I will be attending on behalf of Welsh Government. It will be chaired by Leo Docherty MP, UK Government Minister for Europe at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO). The meeting will be a further opportunity to address the priorities of all four Governments in relation to the UK-EU Trade & Co-operation Agreement and wider UK-EU relations. This is the first UK-EU Relations IMG meeting since the re-establishment of the Northern Ireland Executive. I will provide an update after the meeting.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee, and to the Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution.

Yours sincerely

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

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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.

CC:

Delyth Jewell, MS, Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Mick Antoniw, MS, Counsel General and Minister for the Constitution.

Agenda Item 3.3



Delyth Jewell AS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
Senedd Cymru
CF99 1SN

29 February 2024

S4C Action Plan and Appointment of Interim Chief Executive

Annwyl Delyth,

Firstly, I'd like to thank you again for the opportunity to address the Committee on Thursday, 11 January 2024. We are always grateful for the Committee's continued interest and support for S4C and public service broadcasting, even when the issues under discussion are difficult.

Following that meeting, there is one matter I feel ought be corrected regarding the suggestion made by one of your Members that staff sickness and absence levels at S4C were higher than the norm during the period leading up to BECTU's letter at the end of April 2023. Having looked at S4C's People and Remuneration Committee's minutes from the period in question, that is not what evidence showed. In our meeting of February 2023, a non-executive member of the People and Remuneration Committee made the observation that staff sickness absence figures appeared to be low.

We have revised the way in which S4C's People and Remuneration Committee receives figures relating to employment and we are confident that, moving forward, that Committee will receive a better picture of staffing matters and their effect on the workforce.

During our evidence session with you on 11 January, I told you that the S4C Unitary Board would be meeting to consider and agree a plan of action that we as an organisation have developed in response to the Capital Law Report. I'm glad to provide the Committee with further detail on this below.

The last two years have been difficult for many people associated with S4C, and in May 2023 the non-executive members of the Board commissioned Capital Law to undertake an independent fact-finding process into the culture and work environment at S4C in response to serious concerns raised by the BECTU union.

As you are aware, the non-executive members subsequently and unanimously took some hard decisions last autumn in response to the evidence presented. However, the Capital Law Report raised serious issues and some of these still require attention.

We are committed to ensuring that S4C is a place where our colleagues feel respected, supported, and motivated to perform at their best. We are acutely aware that significant work is required to restore confidence and trust in S4C as an organisation amongst our staff and our stakeholders in the creative sector.



Our Action Plan has been developed in collaboration with the S4C Management Team. We have also consulted with stakeholders, including members of staff and the BECTU union. It is based around four themes: leadership, culture, HR policies and procedures, and governance. I outline further detail on each theme below.

The Unitary Board will be ultimately responsible for the Action Plan, with a standing item at every Board meeting to report on progress against individual actions. The effectiveness of steps being taken as part of the Action Plan will be considered in the context of various feedback mechanisms, including: regular pulse surveys of S4C staff, feedback gathered through the quarterly meetings of the Staff Forum, and annual meetings between BECTU and the S4C Board.

Leadership

We are striving to restore trust and confidence amongst our staff, who play a vital role in the future success of S4C. Leadership built on integrity, accountability, cooperation and open communication is key to building a positive future.

The Unitary Board is committed to appointing a new permanent Chief Executive as soon as reasonably practical who can help restore an ambitious S4C with a renewed focus on collaboration and the well-being of our colleagues. They will be responsible and accountable to the Board for delivering our strategy and laying the foundations for S4C's continued success.

To ensure continued progress in the short term, the Board is pleased to advise you that we are appointing Sioned Wiliam as Interim Chief Executive.

Sioned Wiliam is well-known in the industry as a former BBC Radio 4 Comedy Commissioner and former Head of ITV Comedy. She was also previously a programme producer with television companies Talkback and Hat Trick.

She will join S4C on a part-time basis next month, before assuming the role full-time in early April.

One of Sioned's main responsibilities over the coming months will be to lead on the Action Plan, and the Board is confident in her ability to provide the strong, creative and conscientious leadership that S4C requires during this period.

We are also anticipating an announcement from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport shortly regarding an Interim Chair, who will commence in that role from 1 April 2024. The DCMS will launch an open process to appoint a new permanent Chair of S4C consistent with the Governance Code on Public Appointments.

Culture

We must ensure that S4C staff feel the utmost confidence that any concerns they may raise will be dealt with, and one of our priorities moving forward is ensuring a culture of open communication to that end.

Working closely with the S4C Management Team, a programme will be implemented to ensure positive cultural change wherever needed within the organisation.

We will review S4C's purpose and values, with input from S4C staff at all levels of the organisation. We will also look at how we communicate our primary objectives to enable



clearer communication of our strategy. This will ensure that staff feel ownership of the organisation's values, understand our corporate strategy and their role in delivering it.

A new Internal Communications plan will be developed to improve information flows, the relationship between various teams, and to bolster the voices of our colleagues across all levels of the organisation.

We intend to implement a training programme for managers across the organisation which will focus on leadership, effective management, and managing change positively. All members of staff will receive external training focussed on building resilience and dealing with change.

The Management Team will be accountable to the Unitary Board for delivering this programme for cultural change, and regular monitoring and feedback mechanisms and processes will be put in place to provide a better indication of staff morale and the programme's success.

The Unitary Board will also review the Code of Practice which applies to all Board members to ensure it conforms to the highest standards and expectations, and aligns with S4C's values.

Policies and Procedures

We are clear that a positive organisational culture and effective HR policies must go hand-in-hand.

We are reviewing our HR policies – including on whistleblowing, grievances, and respect in the workplace – to ensure that they correspond to best practice.

We want staff to feel comfortable to raise any concerns and confident that they will be dealt with appropriately. We will strive to re-establish trust between staff, managers and the HR department and will conduct an external review of HR functions and procedures, to ensure that they align with best practice.

We will develop new policies where needed, including a suitable policy on how S4C is to respond to complaints against non-executive members of the Board.

Governance

As part of our efforts to ensure that our governance arrangements conform with best practice, we will commission an external review of governance effectiveness. We expect this to consider internal governance arrangements – including the Board and its committees, the Management Team, and other internal decision-making groups – and to particularly review whether there is appropriate accountability and communication between levels of internal governance.

We expect the outcome of this review to lead to revisions to our Standing Orders and will also therefore take this opportunity to benchmark our Standing Orders, reviewing best practice at comparable organisations.

Forthcoming legislation in the form of the Media Bill will also require amendments to our Standing Orders. While the S4C Authority has been operating as a Shadow Unitary Board on an administrative basis since 2018, we welcome the statutory certainty that the provisions of the Media Bill will provide with respect to S4C's governance arrangements.



I hope that the above summarises and outlines the rationale for the actions agreed by the Unitary Board, and demonstrates S4C's commitment to addressing concerns raised. I also attach a copy of the Action Plan, which is published on the S4C website.

Should you or any member of the Committee have any queries on the Action Plan or the appointment of an Interim Chief Executive, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rhodri Williams'.

Rhodri Williams
Chair, S4C

	Action	Target Dates*		Owner	Status	Note
		Start	End			
LEADERSHIP						
1.	Appointment of Interim Chief Executive.	24/11/2023	29/02/2024	Non-executive Members	✓	Non-Executive Members have announced an appointment on 29/02/2024.
2.	Recruit a permanent Chief Executive.	Dependent on the appointment of a new permanent Chair.		Non-executive Members		<p>Following the Chair's decision not to seek a second term, DCMS will need to appoint a new permanent Chair before that individual and other Non-executive Members can confirm the appointment of a new permanent Chief Executive.</p> <p>The Director of Human Resources and the Secretary to carry out preparatory work before then, to start the process of recruiting a Chief Executive once DCMS has identified the individual they intend to appoint as permanent Chair.</p>
CULTURE						
3.	Review of S4C's values	15/03/2024	30/09/2024	Interim Chief Executive		<p>Hold inclusive sessions with staff to discuss and re-establish S4C's values so that we as an organisation can own and embrace them.</p> <p>Resource: External leader</p>

4.	Review and simplify the Strategy's pillars	15/03/2024	30/06/2024	Interim Chief Executive		Hold workshops to discuss these to improve everyone's understanding of what the Strategy means to the organisation, teams and individuals. Resource: Internal
5.	Review and develop an effective internal communications plan	01/02/2024	30/04/2024	Director of Communications and Marketing		Undertake a review of existing communications, including consultation with staff about what works for them. Resource: Internal
6.	Training for all managers and Management Team members	01/03/2024	31/12/2024	Director of Human Resources		Create, deliver and incorporate a training plan. Resource: External coaches
7.	Training for all staff	01/03/2024	31/12/2024	Director of Human Resources		Create, provide and incorporate a specific training plan that is outside of the 'business as usual' evaluations. Resource: External coaches
8.	Continuous Development Review	01/03/2024	31/03/2025	Director of Human Resources		Feedback to be collected quarterly through the Transformation Team/Staff Forum/Pulse Questionnaire/Quarterly meeting with Bectu. Review the effectiveness of engagement and change. Adjust plans based on feedback where applicable.

POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

9.	Review S4C's Whistleblowing, Respect in the Workplace, Discipline, and Grievance policies.	01/01/2024	31/03/2024	Director of Human Resources		<p>Review existing policies, taking into account good practice and examples of suitable policies that other organisations have, drawing on independent expertise as required. Invite input from Bectu as well.</p> <p>When reviewing, consider whether S4C needs any additional policies.</p> <p>Also consider awareness of these policies, and identify any reasons why staff might not wish to use them.</p>
10.	External review of HR functions and procedures	15/03/2024	30/06/2024	Interim Chief Executive		<p>Appoint an external consultant to review processes and ensure they align with good practice to re-establish workforce trust in the department, taking into account TIAA's recent audit into HR.</p>
11.	Develop a suitable policy for dealing with complaints about Non-Executive Members.	01/02/2024	31/05/2024	Secretary		<p>Look at good practice that other relevant organisations have, drawing on independent expertise as required.</p>
12.	Review the Code of Practice for Unitary Board members.	01/02/2024	31/03/2024	Secretary		<p>Confirm that the Nolan Principles are included. Also need to consider what aspects of the Code of Practice apply to members of the Management Team who are not executive members of the Unitary Board.</p>

GOVERNANCE

13.	Commission an external review of Governance Effectiveness.	01/04/2024	30/06/2024	Secretary	<p>A review looking at the governance arrangements and systems at S4C – including the Board and its committees, the Management Team and structures underneath them within the organisation.</p> <p>It will build on the internal reviews of the effectiveness of the Board and its committees that take place annually, and align with the Financial Reporting Council’s recommendation that an external review be undertaken every three years.</p> <p>The terms of reference for the review will need to be agreed with the external individual / organisation carrying it out, but the review will be expected to include consideration of the following (among other elements):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is communication effective between different layers within the organisation? • Whether the decisions are taken at the appropriate level (this is particularly relevant in light of allegations that the Non-executive Members are involved in operational matters; and that members of the Management Team are micromanaging).
14.	Review the Unitary Board’s Standing Orders.	01/05/2024	31/07/2024	Secretary	It is expected that elements of the Governance Effectiveness Review

						<p>will apply here. It will also be necessary to look at good practice that other relevant organisations have. Consult with relevant individuals – both internally and externally – and obtain legal advice as needed.</p> <p>There is already an intention to review the Standing Orders to ensure that they are consistent with the provisions of the Media Bill when it comes into force. It may therefore be appropriate that any amendments to the Standing Orders should come into force in stages – with those dependent on legislative changes coming into force later.</p>
15.	Create a Plan that outlines the activity and responsibilities for building and maintaining key stakeholder relationships.	01/03/2024	30/04/2024	Director of Communications and Marketing		

*** Indicative dates only above. The delivery schedule will need to be re-considered when the external facilitation resources would be in place.**

Agenda Item 3.4

From: Lorena Troughton

Sent: Monday, February 19, 2024 9:37 AM

To: Jewell, Delyth (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <Delyth.Jewell@senedd.cymru>

Subject: Toriadau i gyllideb y Sector Treftadaeth / Heritage Sector budget cuts

Dear Delyth Jewell MS

We are writing on behalf of the Prospect branches at the National Library of Wales, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales to express our grave concerns about the predicted cuts to our budgets.

As you may be aware, all heritage bodies are currently facing substantial cuts to our budgets in the coming financial year and possibly the next. We are expecting cuts of between 10.5% and 22% to our Grant in Aid. This follows over a decade of austerity, chronic underfunding and cuts, sitting in contrast to the Scottish Government's decision to invest in the heritage sector by awarding a 4.2% increase.

While we recognise that Welsh Government is currently having to make difficult financial decisions, these grants form a relatively small proportion of Welsh Government's expenditure, amounting only to around 0.02% of their overall budget. However, the impact of these budget cuts will have a catastrophic effect on the heritage and culture sector in Wales.

The cuts will result in a severely reduced workforce, leading to a permanent loss of specialist skills and expertise. This will affect the ability of all bodies to conduct our services and activities, potentially endangering the missions of the Royal Charters.

These specialist skills, expertise and knowledge are essential to undertake the basic functions of looking after, protecting and providing access to national collections, Welsh heritage and the delivering the science underpinning nature conservation in Wales. Without them, this may no longer be possible.

All three bodies also provide other essential services and make invaluable contributions to life in Wales. We provide free access to information and knowledge; through events and activities, we contribute to improving well-being and health; and our activities with schools, colleges and universities enhance education in Wales. We also directly contribute significantly to the economic development of Wales by attracting millions of visitors every year.

Furthermore, the cuts will jeopardise our ability to undertake many important activities that contribute to the Welsh Government's own goals and legislation, including the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, the Environment (Wales) Act, the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan and the programme for government.

Without urgent intervention, heritage and culture as well as environmental resiliency in Wales may be damaged beyond repair. We write to you therefore, to ask for your support in imploring the Welsh Government to reverse their decision to cut funding and to help us save heritage and culture in Wales.

Julian Carter (Chair of Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales Heritage Section)

Katherine Slade (Secretary of Amgueddfa Cymru - Museum Wales Heritage Section)

Megan Ryder (Chair, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales)

Meilyr Powel (Secretary, Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales)

Siôn England (Chair, National Library of Wales)

Lorena Troughton (Secretary, National Library of Wales)

Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Prif Weinidog Cymru
First Minister of Wales

Vaughan Gething AS/MS
Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

MA/VG/0463/24

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport & International Relations Committee
Senedd
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

1 March 2024

Dear Delyth,

We are writing to you in relation to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport & International Relations Committee Report – Scrutiny of the Welsh Government’s Draft Budget for 2024-25.

We would like to thank members of the Committee for their consideration of the topic and for the publication of the report.

Please find attached a written response from the Welsh Government to this report. This contains responses to each of the 12 recommendations that the Committee has made as well as further requested information regarding the budgets of the arm’s-length bodies.

Yours sincerely

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Vaughan.Gething@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales

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.

Vaughan Gething Dawn Bowden

Vaughan Gething AS/MS

Gweinidog yr Economi
Minister for Economy

Dawn Bowden AS/MS

Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau, Chwaraeon
a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

J. Miles

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh
Language

Mark Drakeford

Mark Drakeford AS/MS

Prif Weinidog Cymru
First Minister of Wales

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport & International Relations Committee Report - Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25

We would like to thank the members of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport & International Relations Committee for their report on 'Scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25'.

In addition, the Chair of the Committee wrote on 19 February with a further request for information regarding the budgets of the arm's-length bodies.

We have set out our responses to the report's individual recommendations and the further correspondence below.

Recommendation 1. The Welsh Government must write to the Committee to provide revised breakdowns for the International Engagement budget which should reconcile with the £2,658,600 allocation cited in the First Minister's second written submission.

Response: Accept

The breakdown for the International Engagement budget for 2024-25 is provided as follows:

Regional Relationships and Networks Action Plan	£350,635
Public Diplomacy and Soft Power Action Plan	£948,400
Cross Cutting Activity	£1,359,565
TOTAL	£2,658,600

In previous years, a budget was specifically allocated to fund the activity in the diaspora action plan. Diaspora engagement is now mainstreamed into the wider international engagement activity, rather than having a separate funding line, due to a change in the way in which this work is undertaken. This work is now undertaken through our network of overseas offices, as well as through the other two action plans and our cross-cutting activities, without a specific budget allocation.

We cannot always plan and allocate budget for every situation; therefore, we continue to maintain flexibility between activities within the budgets to respond to events as and when they occur. This flexible and responsive approach has meant that, in previous years, we have been able to respond positively to unexpected opportunities to raise Wales's profile as they arise and reprioritise funding.

Recommendation 2. In light of the First Minister’s announcement that he will shortly be leaving office, we recommend that the next responsible Minister for International Relations in the next Welsh Government, should attend in-person scrutiny on future Draft Budgets. This will ensure parity for this policy area with other Ministerial portfolios. We also recommend that the information provided in future must include:

- Comprehensive breakdowns of planned spending within the BEL including International Engagement and International Offices;
- Information relating to outputs, outcomes, impacts and value for money for each area of expenditure within the International Relations BEL;
- Allocations and comparisons with planned spend for forthcoming year against the previous year; and
- An outline of further potential challenges and prioritisations the Welsh Government may need to take in future years.

Response:

This will be a matter for the incoming First Minister to consider and cannot be accepted or rejected at this point in time.

Recommendation 3. The Welsh Government should explain why it has asked strategic partners to submit engagement and delivery plans as late as the first quarter of 2024.

Response: Accept

We meet with our strategic partners frequently throughout the year. During these conversations we review current work streams and discuss future work programmes and opportunities for international engagement in order for our partners to develop their draft delivery plans.

A large part of the work of our strategic partners is to support wider Welsh Government international activity, for example, the “Wales in...” themed years and St David’s Day. It is essential that government officials can develop the strategy and skeleton programme for these activities before inviting strategic partner to contribute and confirm their support. This also ensures that we are able to evaluate the impact of our partners’ activities in the current financial year to determine which have delivered the best return on investment and whether these are appropriate to use/adapt for future years.

Recommendation 4. The Welsh Government, as part of an exercise to collate information on the impact of budget cuts on Cymraeg 2050 targets, should provide an assessment of the potential impact of funding decisions on the number of learners able to access Welsh language post-16 provision, and in particular, apprenticeships.

Response: Accept

We agree with the need to assess the potential impact of funding decisions for the 2024-25 financial year on the number of learners able to access Welsh language post-

16 provision, and in particular, apprenticeships. We have held preliminary discussions with the Coleg Cymraeg and will present further information to the Committee by the end of March.

Recommendation 5. The Welsh Government must provide an assessment of the impact of expenditure on the Welsh language across government portfolios, and to set out how it plans to monitor the impact of spending decisions across policy areas in the future Draft Budgets.

Response: Accept

We have already outlined substantive information on the impact of expenditure as part of our 2024-25 Draft Budget. We report the monitoring and delivery of outcomes through the Programme for Government report. In addition, throughout the year we publish a range of information through our website on the monitoring and outcomes of policy areas. We are happy to consider improvements as to how we assess the impacts of spending decisions through our work on the Budget Improvement Plan, including the review of the Strategic Integrated Impact Assessment recognising that such changes must be proportionate and should also be considered through any changes to the Budget Protocol.

Recommendation 6. The Welsh Government must explain how it accounted for the additional statutory functions within the Welsh Language Commissioner's remit, when deciding to reduce the budget in line with other Commissioners.

Response: Accept

A cross-Governmental decision was taken to reduce the budgets of all four statutory Welsh Commissioners by 5%. The nature of the Commissioner's work was considered, however we had to take difficult budgetary decisions across Welsh Government in order to protect key front line services such as healthcare and local government. The Minister for Education and Welsh Language has discussed the impact of the cut with the Commissioner. She intends to manage the pressure on the staffing budget by not filling empty posts but has no plans to make redundancies. The Commissioner has assured us that the reduction will not affect her core statutory responsibilities; the work of regulating the standards system will continue on the same scale as will the work of trying to increase the use of Welsh language services.

The Commissioner also has the power to intervene in legal cases and may find herself having to defend decisions at the Welsh Language Tribunal. It is not possible to predict this expenditure as it can vary greatly from year to year depending on what arises. Although we are confident that the Commissioner can fulfil her regulatory functions within her budget for 2024-25, it is not possible for the Commissioner to estimate whether additional funding beyond her budget and reserves will be required to fund legal cases. If expenditure on legal cases goes beyond her revenue budget

and reserves, the Commissioner will have to seek additional funding during the year and we will consider that if it arises.

Recommendation 7. The Welsh Government must explain how it has reviewed the ability of the Welsh Language Commissioner to deliver beyond its statutory functions, and which of these could cease in the absence of funding.

Response: Accept

As well as regulating the standards system, the Commissioner's principal statutory function is to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh. It was agreed in a Memorandum of Understanding between the Commissioner and Welsh Government that, in addition to regulating the standards system, the Commissioner would lead on increasing the use of Welsh within the third sector, banks, supermarkets, and large businesses.

The Commissioner will be reducing the headcount in the department that works with businesses and the third sector by one member of staff (from 5 members of staff to 4). Her work with businesses and the third sector will not cease, but there will naturally be some reduction to take account of the reduction in staff members. However, the Commissioner will prioritise the bodies she works with so that her resources can have the biggest impact possible on increasing the use of Welsh. The Commissioner will also be making a small reduction in her programmes budget which will mean cuts to some campaigns.

Recommendation 8. The Welsh Government should identify what spending commitments could be paused and for that funding to be redirected to protecting the national collections.

Response: Accept

Although we are facing extremely challenging economic times, the Welsh Government will continue to do all it can to support our cultural institutions, which are of significance importance to the people of Wales. Additional funding of £922,000 has been allocated in 2023/24 to Amgueddfa Cymru for projects and items which will help it address some of their long-term known maintenance issues, upgrade its estate and allow it to generate further income.

Recommendation 9. The Welsh Government should make protecting the national collections a cross government mission and identify what expenditure in other government departments can be re-allocated to protect the national collections.

Response: Accept in Principle

Wales' culture institutions, and the collections they keep on behalf of us all, are an integral part of our society and well-being. All Ministers have had to make stark and painful choices and we have radically reshaped spending plans to focus funding on the core public services. Despite this, we continue to take the safety of the national collections very seriously. This is why we provided Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library with an increased capital budget, which is being maintained in 2024/25. We have also provided additional funding to allow Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library to upgrade their estates. We are facing challenging economic times; however, we will continue to do all we can to support our cultural institutions and protect the national collection.

Recommendation 10. The Welsh Government should enter into urgent discussions with arm's-length bodies to amend their remit letters ahead of the forthcoming financial year, to ensure that what is asked of them is realistic in light of reduced budgets.

Response: Accept

We are already in discussions with the Culture and Sport arm's-length Bodies (ALBs) about reviewing their term of government remit letters. These will be updated where appropriate to reflect the draft budget, ensure our ALBs continue to deliver our Programme for Government commitments and honour as far as possible the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru.

Recommendation 11. The Welsh Government should reconsider the proposed reduction in the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales's budget from 22 per cent to 10 per cent. It should also outline what financial assistance it is able to provide for a voluntary redundancy programme.

Response: Accept in Principle

In relation to the budget settlement for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments of Wales, the Welsh Government has considered all feedback received, including from the Committee scrutiny sessions very carefully.

The Final Budget includes an additional £1.4m for Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales providing parity to these bodies in terms of reductions across other culture ALBs of 10.5%.

We have needed to take difficult choices in the budgets for our arm's-length bodies (ALBs). This was not a choice taken lightly, but one which was needed to protect core services. As these bodies take forward their new settlements, we will work closely with them to manage these impacts.

We have agreed with the Plaid Cymru Designated Member that our immediate and short-term focus must be on supporting jobs. We agreed that revenue allocated to delivering the culture strategy in 2024/25 should be re-purposed to mitigate against

the impact of job losses at Amgueddfa Cymru, the National Library of Wales, the Arts Council of Wales and the wider arts sector. We will also provide additional funding in 2023/24 for severance schemes at the Cultural ALBs.

Recommendation 12. The Welsh Government should outline how it is monitoring and ensuring that local government is delivering Ministerial expectations on culture and leisure services.

Response: Accept in Principle

The majority of funding provided to Local Authorities is provided through the un-hypothecated local government revenue settlement meaning that Local Authorities as directly elected bodies have a responsibility to make their own decisions on the use of funding to meet their statutory responsibilities and other priorities and needs. Local Authorities engage with their communities on priorities for their budget. Welsh Government publishes detailed information on expenditure by local authorities across the breadth of their services including cultural and leisure provision.

Welsh Government officials attend meetings of the Chief Leisure Officers of Wales (CLOW) to discuss issues related to the delivery of sport and leisure, including the action addressing the recommendation from the Senedd's Leisure and Library Services report published last summer to rapid review of the current state of public leisure provision in Wales. Following this the Welsh Government will engage with the key partners identified in the report, to determine if there are gaps in this assessment and consider whether a wider review is needed to assess the opportunities for the improvements of leisure services.

Sport Wales, as the Welsh Government's arms-length body for the delivery of sport, also has regular dialogue with local authorities about sport and leisure facilities in the context of their capital investment programme.

Further questions in relation to arm's length bodies:

You have asked for the following information in relation to: Sport Wales, the National Library of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales and the Welsh Books Council.

- The level of budget reductions that arms-length bodies in your remit were asked to plan for while officials were preparing the Draft Budget for 2024-25.
- What information your officials sought from arms-length bodies to inform the budget reductions outlined in the Draft Budget for 2024-25.
- What assurances you can provide to us that the level of reductions proposed for 2024-25 are a "one-off" reduction for the bodies within your ministerial remit, and not the first phase of a "two-year" cut.

In planning for the 2024-25 Budget, we were facing an incredibly difficult financial situation – the toughest since the start of devolution. We were in this position because of the record levels of inflation we have experienced post-pandemic; because of the mismanagement of the economy and public finances by successive UK governments over the last 13 years and because of unfunded commitments made by the UK Government, particularly in relation to public sector pay.

We had to plan for no additional UK Government funding, and Welsh Ministers faced difficult choices about where to prioritise funding and where to reshape future Budgets. Within the funding available, Ministers sought to protect frontline public services as far as possible, and to target support towards those at greatest need.

As a result, discussions were held with the ALBs with the greatest budgets (Sport Wales, the National Library of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments in Wales) specifically in order to support them to plan for a range of budget scenarios, with a range of options spanning from a cash-flat budget to a reduction of 22%. Officials also liaised with the Books Council of Wales which has also received a cut of 10.5% as part of the reduction to Creative Wales's budget for 2024/25.

Any future allocations will be subject to the annual budget process, and we cannot confirm if further changes will be necessary until we have the relevant information from UK Government on our settlement for 2025 and beyond.

Cyngor Tref ABERYSTWYTH Town Council

11 Stryd y Popty / Baker Street
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SY23 2BJ



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Maer Aberystwyth Mayor: Y Cyng. / Cllr. Kerry Ferguson

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh language, Sport & International Relations
Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
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CF99 1SN

Aberystwyth Town Council
11 Stryd Y Popty
Aberystwyth
Ceredigion
Cymru
SY23 2BJ

4 March 2024

Dear Chair,

We are writing on behalf of the residents of Aberystwyth, where the National Library of Wales resides. We write asking you to utilise all possible levers to increase the arts and culture budget related to the National Library of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru.

Aberystwyth Town has a population of 14,648 (Census 2021), is rich in history and culture and is home to one of Wales' most prestigious Universities. The Welsh Language is a crucial element of everyday life and is celebrated through poems, songs and displays of pride throughout the town. As a Town Council, we advocate for our community and continue to ensure that local services are protected. We do our utmost to drive investment, support local businesses and maintain our parks, grounds and Community areas for everyone to enjoy. This includes our National Library, which stands proudly over our great town.

We recognise that the Welsh Government is in an undesirable fiscal position, thanks to the actions of 14 years of Westminster austerity; however, the proposed budget for both the National Library of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru is unacceptable.

The PCS and Prospect trade unions, representing members in both locations, warn of the loss of jobs due to this budget settlement. We will reference the National Library of Wales in particular as it relates to Aberystwyth. The potential loss of jobs and capacity is deeply concerning to us. This impacts the individual employees and the wider community, the local economy, the future of Welsh culture, the institutions themselves, and our future generations.

The loss of jobs in the National Library of Wales will impact our community in many ways. Loss of salaries will impact our local economy and businesses; loss of skills and capacity will discourage literary and research tourism, and possibly student numbers at Aberystwyth University; loss of staff and capacity will negatively impact the Welsh Language; a reduction of capacity will have a direct negative impact on our heritage and culture.

Capacity losses at the National Library of Wales will also impact the institutions in question. Key skills and expertise will be lost, which may take decades to rebuild. Cutbacks on current

operations will impact the capacity for projects and proposals that Aberystwyth Town Council have been proud to support, such as the ongoing awareness raising and digitisation of the Welsh Women's Peace Petition, recently debated at the Senedd.

Loss of jobs and funding at the National Library of Wales will also have secondary and tertiary effects on the nation as a whole:

As a Council, we share concern that these job losses and loss of skills and capacity at Wales' primary cultural and historical institutions are not in line with some of the stated aims of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act 2015, namely "A Wales of Vibrant Culture & Thriving Welsh Language", "A Wales of Cohesive Communities", "A Prosperous Wales", and "A Resilient Wales".

Outreach and Education programmes, vital to future generations' understanding of Wales, may also be under threat.

Capacity losses will mean fewer visitors to Aberystwyth and Wales, but likely also less of the groundbreaking research and projects that Aberystwyth University and the National Library of Wales have built a reputation around.

Aberystwyth Town Council is currently leading a bid to make Aberystwyth a UNESCO "City of Literature", which, if granted, would be the first in Wales. Cuts to the National Library of Wales will negatively impact this bid.

Aberystwyth Town Council has been proud to support the planning applications and investments the National Library of Wales has made to make themselves Net Zero. The National Library of Wales has shown itself as a leader in this area, and the reduction of funding is not an incentive to break further ground on the ever-important need to ensure our institutions are climate resilient.

Aberystwyth Town Council asks, on behalf of our residents and institutions, our local economy and our Welsh culture, that you review the proposed funding reductions, and that the Welsh Government and Senedd work proactively with both the institutions and trade unions concerned to ensure that Wales is not made culturally poorer by the actions of our Governments in Cardiff and Westminster.

During a time when so many services are under threat, a reduction in funding for our culture and heritage goes against every fibre of what we believe is the aim of the Programme for Government in Wales and the Cooperation Agreement to develop a culture strategy. Both documents relate to improving cultural assets and securing future investment. Only a few areas remain free for the public to use; taking away funding for an institution that gives so much to enrich the lives of the people of Wales and help give voice to our culture, history, and language may also alter that arrangement. This decision may again place a barrier for our most deprived communities to enjoy the richness of what is on offer at our National Library. Our culture should not be behind a paywall; currently, our National Museum is proud to ensure that isn't the case.

We welcome the opportunity for the Committee to address the Town Council to hear our concerns for our residents and citizens of Aberystwyth, and to share the wider impacts that cuts this deep will have on our culture and our town.

Sincerely,

Aberystwyth Town Council



Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sports, and International Relations Committee

05 March 2024

Dear Delyth

Thank you for your letter, dated 16 January, seeking further information following my draft budget scrutiny session with the Committee on 11 January.

You have asked for information in two areas as follows:

- *impact of budget cuts in other Welsh Government departments on implementing Cymraeg 2050*
- *fuller understanding of the range of activities and expenditure across government departments that are contributing towards Cymraeg 2050 objectives*

Budgets across the Welsh Government supporting Cymraeg 2050

During the scrutiny session, we discussed my spending plans in relation to the Welsh language for the 2024-25 financial year. As always, I was careful to emphasise that although I'm responsible for delivering our Welsh Language Strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*, the aim is to mainstream *Cymraeg 2050* into all Welsh Government portfolio areas. It is therefore not possible to identify the total spending on the Welsh language within Welsh Government as it is an intrinsic part of much of what we do on a day-to-day basis. Expenditure relevant to *Cymraeg 2050* is embedded in delivery within many ministerial portfolios from the economy to health, international to housing, agriculture to the early years.

However, there are stand-alone projects within other portfolio areas that directly support the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*, and I include some examples at Annex A. I'm pleased to see that the majority of these budgets have been maintained despite the scale of cuts made across the Welsh Government in light of the extraordinarily challenging financial climate. Nevertheless, it is imperative that we continue to regularly monitor the situation. My officials will therefore stay in frequent contact with colleagues across the Welsh Government to ensure that the impact of any budgetary cuts on the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* are minimised.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
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0300 0604400

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Correspondence.Jeremy.Miles@gov.wales

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You will however be aware of the difficult budgetary decisions that my colleague, Dawn Bowden MS, Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, has had to make recently. Despite the reductions made to the budget of the culture sector, work remains underway to develop a culture strategy which will set out an ambitious and comprehensive vision for the culture sector in Wales in line with the commitment in the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru. The strategy will set the strategic direction for the sector to 2030.

The cultural arm's-length bodies, including the Arts Council of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales and the National Library of Wales, make an important contribution to the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*. We are aware of concerns relating to the budgetary reductions and potential impacts on the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*. We will maintain regular contact with the Deputy Minister to ensure that we are aware of impacts on the Welsh language in an attempt to mitigate risks as they arise.

Childcare

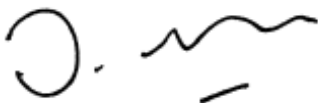
I am aware that the Deputy Minister for Social Services and Minister for Health and Social Services will soon finalise their budget allocations relating to supporting Welsh medium childcare, which includes the Cam wrth Gam programme.

Discussions with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh

For an update on this matter, please refer to the Welsh Government's response to the recommendations made by the Committee on Draft Budget 2024-25 (recommendation 4 refers) where we have agreed to provide an update to the Committee by the end of March.

I would like to assure the committee that we will continue to communicate regularly across Government and with external delivery partners to discuss the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*. We will do this to ensure that we support each other to find creative and innovative ways to make the best possible use of the budgets that are available to us in order to continue on our journey towards doubling the number of us who use Welsh daily, and to reach a million Welsh-speakers by 2050.

Yours sincerely,



Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
Minister for Education and Welsh Language

Annex A: Examples of projects in other government departments which directly support *Cymraeg 2050*

MEG	BEL	Activity supporting <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>	2024-25 Original Final Budget (Feb 2023) £	2024-25 Changes £	2024-25 Revised Draft Budget (Dec 2023) £	<i>Cymraeg 2050</i> activity supported through the BEL and impact of budget cuts on Welsh language policy development and interventions
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Second Homes and Affordability Dwyfor Pilot	£133,000	-	£133,000	Grant to Cyngor Gwynedd in support of Article 4 (planning direction) work. If a direction is implemented by Cyngor Gwynedd, following changes made to the planning framework (Use Class Order), this will allow the Council to manage future numbers of second homes and short-term lets.
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Second Homes and Affordability Dwyfor Pilot	£75,000	-	£75,000	Independent research and evaluation of the Pilot, including an assessment of the effectiveness of a range of measures in relation to second homes and affordability.
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Second Homes and Affordability Dwyfor Pilot	£6,000	-	£6,000	Paycheck income data to support evaluation (this will track price movement; allowing an assessment of relative affordability).
Climate Change	Housing Policy	Second Homes and Affordability Dwyfor Pilot	£322,000	-	£322,000	Pilot staff x 5 posts, working closely with the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan.
Health and Social Services	A Healthier Wales	More than just words plan 2022-27	£291,000	-	£291,000	<p>The aim of <i>More than just words</i> is to strengthen Welsh language services in health and social care leading to improved care and outcomes for Welsh speakers. In view of the numbers of staff delivering health and social services (around 200,000), there is a huge opportunity for health and social care to contribute to the targets and vision of <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>. £40k of this budget is transferred internally to the <i>Cymraeg 2050</i> Division for activity linked to Leading in a Bilingual Country.</p> <p>Apart from this specific budget to fund central initiatives and projects at a national level to support <i>More than just words</i>, the NHS and local authorities also fund Welsh language services as part of their health and social care provision.</p>
Economy	Business & Regional Economic Development	ARFOR Programme - Supporting the Welsh language through economic activity	£7,000,000	-	£7,000,000	Delivery of the ARFOR 2 Programme supporting economic activities as well as benefiting the Welsh language. ARFOR is delivered within the Local Authorities of Gwynedd, Ceredigion Carmarthenshire and Ynys Môn.

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MEG	BEL	Activity supporting <i>Cymraeg 2050</i>	2024-25 Original Final Budget (Feb 2023) £	2024-25 Changes £	2024-25 Revised Draft Budget (Dec 2023) £	<i>Cymraeg 2050</i> activity supported through the BEL and impact of budget cuts on Welsh language policy development and interventions
Economy	Creative Wales (3762)	Co-operation Agreement budget for broadcasting, journalism and Welsh language content	£1,800,000 (revenue)	-	£1,800,000 (revenue)	The funding set aside to support the broadcasting and media commitments in the Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru has been used to deliver projects to support an increase in Welsh language content, including the Young Content Fund, aimed at increasing the provision of bilingual content for young audiences and Sinema Cymru, a partnership with Ffilm Cymru to support the development of Welsh language film projects. This will also be the case in 2024-25 with a significant focus on ensuring sufficient Welsh language media in the delivery of the Co-operation Agreement commitments. There are no budget cuts planned for this budget heading.
Economy	Sport Wales	Grant in aid funding from Sport Wales to Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£386,715	-£13,482	£373,233	<p>Budget changes inevitably impact on the ability of Sport Wales and its partner network to deliver on the breadth of work that sport can contribute to. The sport sector is committed to an inclusive offer and this includes enabling access to sporting opportunities through the medium of Welsh, as well as developing partnerships which grow the language as a natural aspect of sport participation.</p> <p>Sport Wales directly invests in the Urdd who undertake significant work to develop sporting opportunities through the medium of Welsh. This is in addition to all the other partners Sport Wales invests in, who are also committed to providing Welsh language offers where they are able and where there is demand.</p> <p>The Urdd have run successful programmes for several years and evolving the programmes will lend itself to meeting the needs of children and young people today. Areas of focus for the coming year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • After school and Community Provision • Staffing, Apprenticeships and volunteers • Fully established National Urdd Sports and Apprenticeships Board • International opportunities for staff and volunteers • Data shows clearly the need to support pre-school children with physical literacy as part of their development especially in disadvantaged areas • Focus on Diverse and Disadvantaged Areas of delivery • Develop and increase our Inclusive community workforce through our volunteer and apprenticeship pathways

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

6 March 2024

Dear Delyth,

I am responding to your letter of 09 February about Wales in India 2024. I would like to thank the Committee for the interest shown in the upcoming programme which will celebrate and strengthen Wales' relationship with an important trade and cultural partner.

I have set out my responses to each of your questions below.

Q1. Plans for Wales in India

The programme for Wales in India, as with all of our "Wales in..." years, has been designed with flexibility in mind. Events later in the year, or led by our strategic partners, are in the process of being finalised but examples of key events taking place are provided below. The programme centres around our three offices in Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru; other cities and regions in India also feature, as well as some events in Wales.

The Minister for Health & Social Services and I officially launched the year in Mumbai and London respectively on 29 February. I was at the Indian High Commission at an event to mark St David's Day, whilst the Health Minister undertook a programme in Mumbai and Kerala.

The following are just some of the events taking place across the year:

- **February** – Launch of Wales in India (London and Mumbai)
- **Feb to March** – St David's Day events (London, New Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru)
- **March** – Medtech investment roundtable (Mumbai)
- **May** – Multi-sector trade mission (Mumbai and Bengaluru)
- **May / June** – Focus on Indian literature (Hay Festival)
- **June** – Pride month (Mumbai)

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- **July** – Diaspora event (Mumbai)
- **August** – Indo-Welsh conclave trade and invest events (pan-India)
- **August** – Indo-Welsh Music (Eisteddfod Genedlaethol and Green Man)
- **September** – NHS visit (Kerala)

Q2. Lessons from Previous ‘Wales In...’ Years

Previous “Wales in...” years held in Germany, Canada and France have yielded lessons learned that have been helpful during the planning for Wales in India 2024. Most of the lessons learned are around early engagement with internal and external partners, plus regular engagement with stakeholders to provide updates on activity, discuss ideas and resolve any issues. We are currently evaluating the Wales in France year – the first such year not to be impacted by the pandemic – and aim to use the learning from this to inform future activity.

We have had a dedicated Wales-based official, recruited on a fixed-term basis, to support the team in the overseas market and act as a liaison point between the overseas team and the Wales-based teams across Welsh Government. This model was used effectively for both Wales in Canada 2022 and Wales in France 2023. Lessons learned from Canada and France have shown that early recruitment is important, with the need to have resource in place at the planning stage ahead of the launch.

Q3. Alignment of Wales in India with the Budget Reduction for Trade and Investment

Wales in India 2024 has ‘securing high quality trade, investment and employment opportunities for Wales’ as one of its key objectives. Therefore, whilst the budget for export support, including trade missions, has been reduced for 2024-25, we have prioritised the delivery of a trade mission from Wales to India, as part of the overall Wales in India programme. This mission will build on previous trade missions to India in 2016 and a virtual mission in 2021 and will support a delegation of Welsh businesses to explore trading opportunities in this market which is identified as a priority target market in our Export Action Plan. The latest full calendar year data (for 2022) shows an increase in the value of Welsh exports to India at £264.9m (up from £112.5m in 2021), with India ranking 15th in the top destinations for Welsh goods exports. Investment roundtables will also be a key pillar of Wales in India activities and will be held in priority regions across the year.

Q4. Draft Budget Allocation

The allocated budget for Wales in India 2024 is £224,500 (£74,500 from 2023-24 and £150,000 from 2024-25). As set out in previous written evidence to the Committee, the 2024-25 funding comes from the £2.6 million allocated to the International Engagement line of the overall International Relations budget (BEL 3720). An additional £22,330 from the Trade & Invest BEL has been allocated to fund the trade mission to India. The budget for Wales in India has not been reduced as funding for the programme of activity was factored into the original budget allocations.

Q5. Impact of the revised approach set out by the Ministers to ETRA Committee on planning for Wales in India

Our approach to trade and investment, as set out to the ETRA Committee, has not had an impact on activity for Wales in India. As part of this, our Welsh Government overseas trade events programme is published in advance of the following financial year to enable the programme to be marketed to companies, maximise take-up, ensure companies can

effectively prepare and ensure that we can secure attendance at events at the most cost-effective price. The programme is evidence-based and demand-led, focussed on priority target markets, as outlined in our Export Action Plan. Whilst the budget for trade and invest activity is reduced, Wales in India 2024 provided an opportunity to schedule a trade mission to this important market.

There is also a potential forthcoming Free Trade Agreement between the UK and India. Should the trade deal be signed, we will be able to support Welsh businesses in-market and help them to understand what the new FTA means for them.

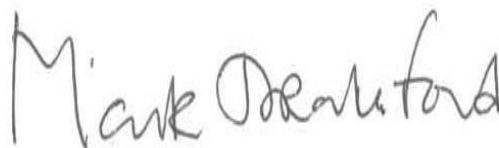
Q6. Balancing Wales in India activities with other international activities, including priority relationships.

The Wales in India year will be a priority in terms of our international engagement, but this will not impact on other activity. Over the last year, we have supported a high number of diplomatic and international visits in Wales. We have also maintained our focus on partnerships signing a in new Shared Statement with Baden-Württemberg, as well agreements with Flanders and Silesia. The team in India is supported by the wider International Relations team in Wales. In addition, as mentioned in Question 2, there is a dedicated official in Wales to bring extra resource to the Wales in India team.

Q7. Ministerial visit to India

As outlined in the response to Question 1, the Minister for Health & Social Services visited Mumbai to officially launch Wales in India 2024. This visit combined with a programme to celebrate St David's Day. Her visit included meetings and events centred around trade and investment – including a roundtable on investment from the medtech sector, NHS Wales objectives, the soft-power and global responsibility agenda and furthering our work in India on the Well-Being of Future Generations Act. The Minister also travelled to Kerala with a programme centred around NHS recruitment. A Written Statement will be published in the normal course of business.

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 MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

FEBRUARY 2024

INWARD VISITS

- 26 Feb Visit to Wales by Bangladesh High Commissioner to the UK**
The First Minister met with the High Commissioner during his two-day visit to Wales. At the meeting they discussed the promotion of Welsh Language, education in Wales and the Bangladesh community in Wales.

OUTWARD VISITS

- 28 Feb First Minister visit to Brussels, Belgium***
The First Minister travelled to Brussels to celebrate St. David's Day and demonstrate Wales' commitment as a European nation with European partners. The First Minister spoke at an event hosted by Forum Europe, met with the Minister President of Flanders, held a roundtable discussion hosted by WindEurope and attended an event hosted by Universities Wales. In the evening the First Minister hosted a reception to celebrate St. David's Day at the Ambassador's Residence in Brussels.
- 28 Feb Minister for Health & Social Services visit to India***
The Minister for Health & Social Services travelled to India to launch the year of Wales in India 2024 at the St David's Day reception in Mumbai and attended meetings and events across multiple sectors, including healthcare, global responsibility and soft power. The Minister also visited the state of Kerala to sign a Memorandum of Understanding alongside the Chief Minister of Kerala to strengthen relations between Wales and the Government of Kerala to support recruitment to Wales.
- 28 Feb Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip visit to Ireland***
The Minister for Social Justice and Chief Whip travelled to Dublin to reaffirm the Welsh Government's commitment to the Ireland-Wales Shared Statement and to mark St David's Day. The two-day visit included meetings with Government Ministers and Departments, attendance at several cultural and business events and the hosting of a St David's Day reception.
- 29 Feb First Minister visit to Indian High Commission, London**
The First Minister met with the Indian High Commissioner in London at the Commission's St David's Day reception.
- 29 Feb Minister for Rural Affairs, North Wales and Trefnydd visit to the American Embassy, London**
The Minister met with the US Ambassador in London at the Embassy's St David's Day reception.

**A written statement with more information on the visits will issue in due course.*

Ein cyf/Our ref DB-PO-0085-24

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

12 March 2024

Dear Delyth,

Scrutiny of Public Service Broadcasting

Thank you for your letter of 15 December 2023 seeking information following the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee's scrutiny of Public Service Broadcasting in Wales.

The responses to the questions you raised in your letter are set out below.

When will the Welsh Government make public a decision about the establishment of a Shadow Broadcasting Authority? If the Welsh Government does not set up a Shadow Broadcasting Authority, will it re-allocate the specific budget allocations intended for that purpose directly to other policies to improve the provision of media for Wales?

The Welsh Government's response to the broadcasting expert panel's recommendation to establish a Shadow Broadcasting Authority was published today in a [Written Statement](#).

The budgets set aside for broadcasting and media through the Co-operation Agreement will continue to be used to support those commitments and to deliver actions in line with the Welsh Government's response to the broadcasting expert panel report.

What is the Welsh Government's view on the sufficiency of the provision of broadcast media for Wales?

The Welsh Government's Co-operation Agreement with Plaid Cymru sets out our view that the current broadcasting and communications framework is inadequate, is hampering the democratic life of our country and is not serving the needs of, or ambitions for, the Welsh language. It highlights the need to improve Welsh journalism and to tackle the information deficit. Media plurality is the backbone to any functioning, democratic society and its safeguarding is paramount to ensuring informed, balanced news provision. We are heavily reliant on broadcast news in Wales, and evidence suggests we need to do more to ensure a plurality of news and accuracy in UK level provision. For example, the 2022 Cardiff University report '*Reporting the nations and devolved issues on network news: An analysis*

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of television and online coverage' highlighted that, although UK news providers had enhanced their coverage of issues relating to the devolved nations, this was due largely to the reporting of rules relating to the pandemic. As was seen during the crisis, concerns were raised at the lack of difference between rules set by the UK Government and Governments in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Belfast. The broadcasting expert panel report highlighted that Non-Welsh-speaking Welsh audiences continue to be under-served by Wales-specific content.

Despite this, there are positive developments to be seen in the broadcasting sector in Wales. Creative Wales' focus on maintaining growth and positioning Wales as a top location for film and television production has attracted major productions in recent years, including Netflix's *Havoc* and Lucasfilm's production of *Willow*. Positive relationships with our public service broadcasters, including through our Memorandums of Understanding, have seen 2023 hailed as the year of Welsh drama by BBC Cymru Wales. This has supported content that reflects our Welsh life and culture both to audiences in Wales and those in other nations of the UK, showcasing our talent and landscapes. Partnership arrangements with S4C and Film Cymru are supporting more investment into Welsh film.

Our aim is to build on positive developments, highlight continued gaps and issues in provision, and target future activity accordingly, working with the new Broadcasting and Communications Advisory Body and the Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group.

What, if any, key policy changes would the Welsh Government like to see made at either the Wales or UK level to improve the provision of broadcast media for Wales?

The Welsh Government would like to see changes that would ensure an adequate voice for Wales in decisions related to broadcasting that affect Wales and enhanced structures put in place to increase transparency and improve accountability to Wales. For example, a stronger, more formal consent role in all broadcasting appointments affecting Wales, a formal role in reviews and decisions on funding for broadcasters that impact Wales, such as the TV Licence Review and enhanced governance arrangements for broadcasters, for example through a BBC Charter for Wales. The Broadcasting and Communications Advisory Body, once established, will have an important role to provide guidance and advice to inform Welsh Government policy and identify specific actions to help improve the provision of broadcast media for Wales.

What is the Welsh Government's view on the devolution of broadcasting?

The Welsh Government's view, as set out in the Co-operation Agreement, is that broadcasting and communication powers should be devolved to Wales.

Yours sincerely



Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

Culture and the new relationship with the European Union

Engagement findings

March 2024

To support its inquiry into culture and the new relationship with the European Union, the **Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee** sought insights into the effects on the creative industries. The Citizen Engagement Team facilitated interviews and focus groups with performing and touring artists and creative professionals engaged in cross-border work. The results of which are detailed in this paper.

Background

The Brexit transition period ended on 1 January 2021, which means that it is two and half years since the new regulations were introduced for working and trading between the UK and the EU.

Engagement

Between 11 December 2023 and 26 February 2024, ten interviews and one focus group were conducted by the Citizen Engagement Team. The purpose of the interviews and



focus group was to provide the Committee with the views and experiences of performing artists and creative workers touring and working cross-border.

Participants

13 participants took part in the interviews and focus group. Participants included Welsh international professional folk, rock, and instrumental performing artists, performing artist managers, a Welsh instrument manufacturer, a Welsh cruise director, promoters of Welsh international music and instrumental festivals, and representatives from cultural businesses and venues in Wales as well as an organisation advocating for artists in the music industry.

Some of the participants have performed and toured in Europe since the new regulations came into effect, whilst others have made a conscious decision not to do so.

Participants were sourced via a screening survey sent to over 35 individual artists and bands and over 15 cultural organisations in Wales.

Some performing artists were approached, but chose not to partake in the engagement, suggesting that it is too early to measure the impact of the new regulations, particularly since they came into effect during the pandemic.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the programme of engagement.

Methodology

All interviews and focus groups were held online to enable Welsh artists, working across Europe and further afield, to take part.

The following discussion points were addressed during the interviews and focus group:

1. In your view, what impact, if any, has Brexit had on your cross-border work?
2. Are there particular aspects of the new rules that you would like to discuss?
3. In your view, what impact, if any, has Brexit had on accessing funding and networks?
4. Do you think there is enough guidance and support available to you relating to the new relationship between the UK and the EU? What additional support would be beneficial to you?
5. How do you see the future of your cross-border work?
6. What changes, if any, would you like to see in the future, to improve cross-border working for the culture sector?

1. Summary of recommendations

Recommendation 1. Accessible management infrastructure supported by the Welsh Government, where performing artists and creative workers can access practical advice and support to manage and further their professional development, on a local, national and international level.

Recommendation 2. Accessible, accurate guidelines on the new regulations.

Recommendation 3. Tax incentives or Welsh Government funding to encourage cross-cultural exchange between the UK and the EU.

Recommendation 4. Streamline merchandise paperwork for performing and touring artists.

Recommendation 5. Reduce the cost of carnets and subsidise the deposit required.

Recommendation 6. Visa waiver agreement for performing and touring artists.

Recommendation 7. Support performing and touring artists to seek cultural opportunities beyond the EU.

Recommendation 8. Develop and support cultural opportunities in Wales.

Recommendation 9. Create a new role, Culture Commissioner for Wales to re-establish and nurture new partnerships and networks with the culture sector in the EU. This role could also be an opportunity to support performing artists and creative workers in Wales, whilst also promoting a more positive attitude towards the culture sector.

2. Key themes

The main impacts of the new relationship with the EU on culture

1. All participants agreed the new regulations have had a negative impact on their cross-border work and the new relationship between the UK and the EU, within the culture sector, is a difficult and strained relationship.
2. Participants also spoke about the added complexities of identifying the impact generated by the new regulations, as their coming into effect coincided with the instability of the pandemic, a financial crisis and an energy crisis – “a perfect storm.”
3. All participants spoke about the short and long-term impact of the new relationship with the EU on the careers of performing artists and creative workers in Wales.
4. Participants expressed concern about the specific impact on culture in Wales, at a time when there is more interest than ever before in Welsh language and culture.

“It's massively frustrating because Wales specifically has gone through huge changes in confidence in language and culture....and is now getting more mainstream media attention. But the delivery of that on a practical scale is then hampered by all of these ridiculous hurdles to try and get that out into the world, when there is actually now more interest than ever there was before.”

Fewer opportunities

All participants agreed that there are fewer invitations and opportunities for performing artists and creative workers from Wales, within the cultural sector in Europe, since the Brexit regulations came into effect.

“In this field of work, there are highs and lows, that's how it's always been, over forty years of being a professional musician....but it's pretty odd that nothing has come in since Brexit.”

- 5.** Participants expressed their growing concerns as promoters opt to hire EU citizens only.

“People in the EU think it's just too tricky to work with the UK it's just too much paperwork”.

- 6.** Participants spoke of some promoters, even within the UK, hiring only EU citizens.

“There are Brexit benefits.....for people with EU passports. Britain has lost its 'soft power'.”

- 7.** One of the participants' biggest employers is a French harp manufacturer. Before Brexit, the participant used to travel all over Europe with them. Since Brexit, the participant has not received any work from the company.

- 8.** One manager suggested that booking inquiries for artists are down 20-30% since Brexit and Covid-19.

- 9.** One participant illustrated the specific impact on young artists. For example, in Denmark, artists need to earn a minimum requirement before they can perform without a visa.

- 10.** One music instrument manufacturer illustrated the importance of showcasing his products at events in the music industry within the EU. This has not been possible since Brexit.

- 11.** Some participants explained how the cultural market beyond the EU continues and, in some cases, has expanded. For example, the United States of America. However, they tend to be complicated and more expensive markets and don't have the same appeal as the EU market for some performing and touring artists.

- 12.** Other participants said that performing and touring artists should be considering new opportunities beyond the EU.

Financial implications

- 13.** All participants referenced the financial implications of the new regulations.

14. Many participants spoke about the additional costs of carnets, if required, and the deposit which is 30 to 40% of the value of the item(s) carried.

15. Participants explained the importance of merchandise as a revenue stream for performing and touring artists. Due to shipping costs, some artists are employing EU businesses to produce their merchandise locally, to save having to transport their merchandise. This has an obvious impact on businesses in the UK, including Wales.

"If you can't do that [sell merchandise whilst on tour] or you can only take a small amount because of the cost, then it's going to be a really big hit to what you're actually taking home as a result of that tour."

16. Some participants illustrated the impact on ways of working, both in Wales and the EU, as promoters struggle to commit to bookings, offering profit shares rather than guaranteed fees to performing artists.

"Promoters [in the UK, including Wales] are less willing to take risks on bigger fees....you get asked a lot more to do shares....like profit shares with a number of audiences. So you take a cut of the box office instead of a guaranteed fee. There's a whole new way of working going on....It's a trickier scene than it was before."

17. One participant illustrated how his musical instrument manufacturing business has seen a drop in EU sales, largely due to export costs as well as increased difficulty in importing EU materials for manufacturing.

18. Another participant spoke of financial losses, due to additional fees, whilst trading with a company in Ireland.

19. Some participants explained that accessing any funding intended to replace EU funding has become very competitive and short deadlines do not allow time to consider possibilities and opportunities in their entirety.

Administration

20. All participants spoke of the labour-intensive increased paperwork, as a result of the new regulations, with artists and creative workers having to spend more time on administration and less on creativity.

"I don't think we can underestimate the significance of the impact of having to understand and comply with all of that, [the paperwork]....It's just all very time-consuming and it's a real headache."

- 21.** Participants spoke of the impact of increased paperwork on their creativity.

"Obviously, there are exceptions, but for the most part, it [the extra paperwork] really affects an artist's mindset, and that affects you too creatively, not just in practice."

- 22.** Some participants, emerging artists in particular, mentioned being offered last-minute work in the EU. This has become increasingly difficult to accept, because of the up to 90 days within any 180 days regulation and the additional administrative paperwork.

- 23.** Many participants spoke of their frustration with the postal system and the delivery of goods, since Brexit, in relation to merchandise.

- 24.** One participant, who runs a record label, explained how some EU companies have refused to deal with them as the paperwork had become so onerous.

Travel and border issues

- 25.** All participants raised concerns about the limit on stays of 90 days within 180 days. This impacts performing artists and creative workers in different ways. For example, a musician might support several different tours during one stay in the EU - this is no longer possible.

"I'm pessimistic...it's such a regression from where we were, when I could just load my car up with my instruments and do whatever I wanted essentially in 27 other countries, which are generally, the cultural hub of the world."

- 26.** One participant explained that 80% of his work was in the EU, pre-Brexit. The stay of 90 days within 180 days makes this impossible, resulting in a loss of earnings.

- 27.** Other participants gave examples of having to turn work down in the EU because of the up to 90 days within any 180 days.
- 28.** Some participants explained how the up to 90 days within any 180 days also impacts their personal travel arrangements, for example, family holidays.
- 29.** Participants spoke of the challenges of travelling to the EU with musical instruments and the continued confusion regarding carnet requirements.
- 30.** Many participants illustrated how they source musical instruments locally when performing in the EU. However, this is not always possible.
- 31.** Some participants gave examples of touring artists travelling to the EU in their personal vehicle carrying only their own merchandise, having to buy a freight ticket, which is far more expensive.
- 32.** Orchestras are highly impacted by the changes, particularly the cabotage rules, whereby a vehicle over 3.5 tonnes is only allowed three stops, before having to return to the UK.
- 33.** Many participants spoke of the lack of knowledge and understanding of the new regulations by border officials in the UK. For example, artists were told in Dover that they needed carnets for their guitars, which was not the case.

“Border officials within the UK need to be better trained...they’re still clearly still confused about the rules.”

- 34.** Some participants, who promote international festivals in Wales, spoke about the unfortunate welcome sometimes faced by EU traders arriving in the UK, including Wales.

“It should be clear-cut – they’re [European artists] coming in for an activity of this nature...and we want to be encouraging that and making it a friendly place to trade with.”

- 35.** Other participants spoke about facing the same confusion at EU borders too, for example, recently in Sweden.

Lack of confidence

36. Participants shared their nervousness about the administrative paperwork and the implications of “getting it wrong”, particularly among young and emerging performing artists.

“One of the biggest things that has occurred is the knock of confidence on the trade going both ways, post Brexit. There is certainly the lack of confidence in the process.”

37. Some participants, specifically emerging artists, illustrated the challenge of having to take responsibility for so many roles.

“We do a lot ourselves, we organise tours, we're the agent, we're the manager and even the thought of learning all those things and making sure you do them right is so overwhelming.. ... it puts you off unless it's really worth it.”

38. Some participants explained how the new regulations have stifled their aspirations to develop as international artists.

“In the long run it limits a person's ambition, there is so much red tape to travel and to consider travelling.”

39. Many participants spoke of the lack of advocates for emerging performing artists to help develop and promote the music industry on a national and international level.

“I see myself as quite a privileged artist, I'm a musician and I have a large team of people behind me. If I didn't have management backing me.....I suspect I would be completely lost in a world of paperwork and I wouldn't do it.”

40. Some participants shared a concern for future generations in the culture sector, specifically in the music industry in Wales.

41. Participants said there is a marked decline in the opportunities available to nurture young musicians in Wales, particularly those from a disadvantaged background.

42. Some participants compared the opportunities available to them to perform within the EU, from an early age with the limited opportunities available to young musicians today.

"It was so much easier to go abroad to perform. Now, it's all red tape... is going to break young people's hearts before they start, from both sides. That's sad."

Dwindling networks and partnerships

43. All participants agreed that the new regulations have put a strain on existing partnerships and networks with the EU.

"Wales is pretty good with community arts, we have a pretty great level of experience within the sector and to be able to share that, and to learn.....well, that's gone."

44. One participant, the director of an international music festival held in Wales, suggested the new regulations could have an impact on the support of international sponsors for events in Wales, which in turn would affect opportunities for Welsh artists.

"I fear the barriers will make Wales less appealing to international sponsors. Why sponsor a festival in Wales if it costs them a quarter of the price to do the same elsewhere in Europe?"

45. Participants spoke about their concern about the impact of lost networks and partnerships, on Wales, as a result of the new regulations.

"I worry that Wales is becoming less appealing to organisations and companies that have been so supportive in the past."

46. One participant said that three of his agents were finding it increasingly difficult to support him, as their European networks *"had disappeared."*

47. Participants explained the economic impact of the new regulations on businesses in Wales. For example, some music instrument companies in Wales are facing increasing challenges buying instruments from the EU, which in turn, restricts music instrument sales in Wales.

Impact on creativity

48. Most participants expressed concern about the impact of waning networks and partnerships with the EU, on creativity within the culture sector in Wales,

“It’s culturally important to share and exchange artistic ideas. It’s a way of bringing countries and cultures together.”

49. Many participants illustrated the benefits and value of co-production and working in partnership with organisations and companies within the EU.

“You miss that excitement of sharing ideas....the ability to stand shoulder to shoulder with other artists and other cultures and have that respect for each other.”

“We’ve left Creative Europe and that’s a real shame because we didn’t have to as a result of leaving the EU and that is obviously going to mean less funding, fewer opportunities to have partnerships”.

50. Some participants are concerned about the decrease in the number of European musicians and other performing artists travelling to the UK, including Wales, to study and perform - *“we are losing both ways.”*

51. Other participants illustrated the *“talent drain”* whereby performing and touring artists with an EU citizenship are leaving Wales, to take advantage of opportunities within the EU.

“When we lose the arts, we lose much more than we think.”

Guidance and support

52. All participants feel the lack of guidance and support has been one of the biggest challenges facing performing artists and creative workers, who want to perform and tour in the EU since the new regulations came into effect.

“You would have expected for a government that drove legislation to remove us from the EU, would have established a supportive network of advice and guidance that could help you navigate professionally through [the changes].”

Access to information

53. All participants agreed that accessing information regarding the new regulations has been very challenging, if not impossible at times.

“As much as I hate what Brexit has done, I can get on and deal with that, but I can only do that if I have the right information.”

54. Participants spoke about having to contact numerous organisations and websites, for example, the Independent Society of Musicians, Musician’s Union, Wales Arts International and the website, ukeartswork.info to access information about the new regulations.

55. Many participants explained how difficult the information is to understand and that they are being treated like traders, rather than artists.

56. Some participants mentioned there has been no attempt to publish accessible resources, for example, easy-read content.

57. Some participants said that there is some support available, for example, the website, vivalavisa, but it is not well advertised.

Confusing and conflicting information

58. All participants referred to the complexity of the new regulations, particularly the fact that the requirements are different for each of the EU member states. For example, not all countries offer up to 90 days within any 180 days stay; Greece offers one day at one performance before a visa is required.

“We have had to spend our time trying to understand something that was pretty impossible to understand for the first couple of years.”

59. One participant illustrated the ‘strange’ requirements of some EU member states, for example, the Netherlands.

"The Netherlands has quite a strange requirement; you need to be a substantial or essential part of a noteworthy artistic event' to take advantage of their visa and work permit waiver.....Now, who's that?"

60. All participants expressed concern about the misleading and conflicting information shared, even on the UK Government website.

"That [conflicting information] is actually causing more problems than the actual changes themselves because it's stopping people from going in the first place."

61. Some participants mentioned the UK Government website is still not being updated regularly.

Lack of management infrastructure

62. Participants agreed that there is a lack of management infrastructure in Wales to support performing artists, particularly emerging artists, to develop their careers on a local, national and international level.

3. Improving future cross-border working

63. Participants suggested ways of improving cross-border working and restoring performing artists' and creative workers' confidence in performing and touring within the EU.

Recommendation 1. Accessible management infrastructure supported by the Welsh Government, where performing artists and creative workers could access practical advice and support to manage and further their professional development, on a local, national and international level.

"If only there was a little army of people that can be funded in some way and that a young band or musician can go to and they can say I've got this gig can you help me.....I'm sure if there was just that help

there...as I have...that would be a first step to restart this whole movement."

Recommendation 2. Accessible, accurate guidelines on the new regulations.

"In terms of my personal experience, we need to make it easier and simpler for companies to understand the rules...that would then have an impact on the opportunities available to performers like me."

Recommendation 3. Tax incentives or Welsh Government funding to encourage cross-cultural exchange between the UK and the EU.

"Significant work needs to be done, to mend the relationships with international markets....It's so important within the creative industries....It's difficult to do business on a bad feeling."

Recommendation 4. Streamline merchandise paperwork for performing and touring artists.

"We haven't got the same aspiration [to work cross-border] anymore. Why would you do it, when there are obstacles in the way?"

Recommendation 5. Reduce the cost of carnets and subsidise the deposit required.

Recommendation 6. Visa waiver agreement for performing and touring artists.

"We're so [geographically] close to European countries, I want to make that border as convenient as possible in terms of encouraging artists to travel...We're going to lose important partnerships if that doesn't happen."

Recommendation 7. Support performing and touring artists to seek cultural opportunities beyond the EU.

"Far beyond Britain and Brexit, the world is moving forward, and pleasure ship companies are expanding.... As far as I am concerned the sea will be the future."

Recommendation 8. Develop and support cultural opportunities in Wales.

"If musicians and people in the cultural industry are losing work abroad, we need to try and replace it here [in Wales]."

Recommendation 9. Create a new role, Culture Commissioner for Wales to re-establish and nurture new partnerships and networks with the culture sector in the EU. This role could also be an opportunity to support performing artists and creative workers in Wales, whilst also promoting a more positive attitude towards the culture sector.

"There needs to be more investment.....if we are serious about supporting our artists and their careers."

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 8

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

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 11

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

Document is Restricted

Document is Restricted

Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AS/MS
Prif Weinidog Cymru/First Minister of Wales

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell AS/MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee

6 March 2024

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 9 February regarding the UK Government's plans to ratify the UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

The Welsh Government welcomes the UK Government's proposal to ratify the UNESCO 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the launch of a public consultation on the initial stages of implementation.

This is an opportunity to raise awareness and the profile of Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in Wales for the benefit of current and future generations and to showcase the diverse traditions and heritage that exist here.

The process of ratifying the Convention is still in its early stages and therefore many areas remain unclear. The UK will be the state signatory, but it is of course important that the UK works with devolved governments as part of taking this work forward. A number of the questions you raise resonate with concerns which the Welsh Government has expressed in its consultation response, and this is attached as Doc 1.

As set out in the consultation documents, the nomination of items of ICH for the inventory should be bottom up and community led, and we agree with the approach that ICH can only be heritage when it is recognised as such by the communities, groups or individuals who create, maintain and transmit it. The Welsh Government will not be expressing preferences on what we would like to see included in the inventory, however we will encourage and support communities, groups or individuals who wish to submit items.

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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.

You will see in the consultation documents that DCMS is proposing that compatible inventories are created for each of the four nations of the UK, as well as for participating Overseas Territories or Crown Dependencies. Each inventory will then be collated into the National Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the UK.

The consultation document does specifically suggest that inventories created for each part of the UK could draw on and complement existing inventories, for example, the list maintained by Museums Galleries Scotland, and the Red List of Endangered Crafts compiled by Heritage Crafts.

Contact with the UK government in respect of UNESCO conventions takes place at a number of levels. In March 2023, as part of a programme to launch Wales in France, the First Minister visited UNESCO in Paris. The Welsh delegation, comprising representatives from Wales Arts International, Amgueddfa Cymru, Urdd Gobaith Cymru, and the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, alongside the First Minister, engaged in discussions with several senior UNESCO officials on topics including youth, culture, language and heritage.

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Arts and Heritage is the Minister responsible for the ratification of the Convention and also the ongoing implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention to which the UK is already a signatory. Lord Parkinson provides updates on actions relating to UNESCO conventions in writing and through meetings with myself as Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism and equivalent Culture Ministers in Scotland and Northern Ireland. During the past year this has included discussions in respect of the UK tentative list for WHS nominations and the proposal to ratify the ICH convention.

Welsh Government officials in Cadw support practical delivery of the UK's international obligations in respect of the implementation of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention including participating in advisory groups operating at UK level. Officials from the Welsh Government have participated in discussions with DCMS officials in advance of and during the present consultation process for ratification and implementation of the ICH convention.

The arrangements for collating and maintaining intangible cultural heritage inventories is the subject of the current consultation and will be the responsibility of the UK State Party.

Following consultation, the Welsh Government looks forward to working with the UK Government on the policy paper which will outline the details of how the UK plans to implement the Convention. We expect this paper will include monitoring and compliance arrangements.

Wales has a distinct culture and heritage and the Welsh Government is supportive of the inventory representing both traditional and contemporary culture and ensuring diverse practices are included that reflect a modern society. The inclusion within the criteria that "*The Intangible Cultural Heritage can originate from anywhere*", means that diverse traditions or practices by people who have migrated and settled in Wales over generations can also be recognised and celebrated. It is important to also note the criteria that the IHG item "*can be from any time*" and "*must be currently practised*".

There have been calls over a number of years to make St David's Day a bank holiday in Wales. The subject was debated by the National Assembly for Wales on 1 March 2000 and received unanimous support. However, the Welsh Government does not have the power to designate bank holidays.

Any new bank holiday would need to be added to the list of existing bank holidays in the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971. This is currently only within the gift of the UK Government. As the creation of bank holidays is not a devolved matter, a request had to be made to the UK Government to designate the day as a bank holiday in Wales. The UK Government formally rejected the request in October 2002 and successive UK Governments have maintained this position.

We will continue to make the case for the devolution of the powers to the Senedd and the Welsh Ministers to make St David's Day a bank holiday.

Yours sincerely,



MARK DRAKEFORD



**Dawn Bowden MS
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism**

Response to DCMS Consultation on the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage

The Welsh Government

General

1. The Welsh Government welcomes the UK Government's proposal to ratify the UNESCO 2003 Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage and the launch of a public consultation on the initial stages of implementation.
2. Culture is a devolved matter. The Welsh Government values the commitment made by the UK Government to an inclusive, respectful and collaborative intercultural dialogue, and the recognition that there is no single government or organisation which can be responsible for the implementation of the Convention across the UK.
3. The UK Government should take an approach of equal partnership in relation to all decision-making pertaining to the signing of, and the implementation of the Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in the UK.
4. The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act includes a goal of '*A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language*'. The links between cultural participation and individual and community well-being, how culture supports community cohesion, and the need for sustainable approaches to supporting culture are key considerations in Wales, and this is true of intangible cultural heritage.
5. The articles of the UNESCO Convention emphasise the importance of formal and informal education and research, of building greater awareness, especially amongst young people, and of ensuring the widest possible participation as part of safeguarding activity. At present, the means by which this would be achieved are unclear within the information released for the UK consultation process.
6. The Welsh Government would welcome being sighted on the consultation responses received from Wales and being consulted further on drafts of the policy paper which will outline how the UK plans to implement the Convention in due course.
7. In ratifying the Convention, a commitment to long-term funding and other resources required to support safeguarding must be apparent. An early discussion is required to understand what level of resource can be made

available from the UK Government to support all aspects of ratifying the Convention.

The Inventory

8. The Welsh Government welcomes the proposal to create compatible inventories for each of the four nations of the UK, and that each inventory will then be collated into a national Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the UK.
9. The commitment to ensuring each nation is well represented on a UK inventory is noted, however, no specific detail has been shared about the process for reflecting the four nation inventories within the UK level inventory. Further discussion is required to understand how decisions will be made around the inclusion of Wales-based Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) in the UK inventory. The Welsh Government is eager to understand how a Wales inventory would be lifted and included in a UK level inventory, and where would the decision-making powers lie for this process. At this early stage, committing to ensuring a balanced approach, with full consultation and empowerment of each nation on the process of managing the UK level inventory content would offer reassurances.
10. The process for adding items to the inventory is described as a 'call for items' with submissions led by communities, groups or individuals followed by a 'light-touch' approvals process, with new entries announced on a regular basis – probably quarterly. The Welsh Government would welcome early discussions to clarify whether and how the process described relates to the UK inventory and the four nations' inventories.
11. The introduction to the consultation states that 'we will look to engage and provide support for those who wish to submit items.' As the Welsh language is afforded legal status in Wales, all support, processes and communications relating to the safeguarding of ICH must be provided in both English and Welsh.

Safeguarding

12. Safeguarding is being proposed as the second stage of implementation, to follow an initial stage of creating an inventory of ICH in the UK.
13. The implementation outline explains that '*safeguarding*' is generally understood to include raising awareness, building participation, ensuring sustainability, and supporting the passing on of skills and knowledge,' and that '*the question of what, where, and how ongoing safeguarding looks like does not ... have a straightforward answer.*'

14. The Welsh Government acknowledges that safeguarding is not straightforward and that approaches to safeguarding need to be flexible and responsive to the granular areas of ICH activity. However, Article 13 and 14 of the UNESCO Convention outline measures for safeguarding and education, awareness-raising and capacity building in far more detail than the UK's consultation document. The UK should reflect Articles 13 and 14 in how it defines approaches to safeguarding.
15. We note the Consultation explanatory document expresses that *'ratifying the Convention does not signal a commitment for any immediate action from the UK government, the devolved administrations, local government or associated public bodies ... we are starting with no assumptions as to what actions to increase and improve safeguarding should look like of focus on.'* We believe this statement risks undermining the commitment to ratify the Convention and suggests that in fact there is potential to do nothing. We would urge the UK Government to commit to immediate engagement with the devolved governments and key cultural stakeholders to agree next steps.

Not listing items at UNESCO's global list

16. The Welsh Government notes the UK Government's intention not to focus on nominating items of ICH from the UK for the first few years following ratification; that there is currently no commonly agreed way of assessing which ICH elements are more valuable and important in the UK, and that a small number of items selected for the UNESCO list may be inherently unrepresentative of the wider ICH across the UK.
17. We believe that ratifying and implementing the UNESCO Convention in the UK should include the objective to list items of ICH at UNESCO and that there is a need to start considering a UK framework for assessing ICH for listing at UNESCO. Waiting to address this issue for the first few years risks placing the UK at a disadvantage globally, undermines the importance of UK based ICH, excludes the UK from accessing international expertise and support via UNESCO, and is detrimental to the profile of UK based ICH.
18. Agreeing an approach to listing at UNESCO will require collaboration and joint decision-making across the four nations of the UK.
19. The Consultation explanatory document expresses that the List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (Article 17) and the Register of Best Safeguarding Practices are smaller and have more specific criteria for inclusion, and that the UK proposes to *'consider engaging with these once the Inventory of Intangible Cultural Heritage in the UK is up and running.'* The Welsh Government believes that these are important components of safeguarding ICH and that the UK should commit to engaging with the List and Register and should implement these in the UK as soon as possible.

Alongside the four nations' inventories, a four nation approach should be adopted for the List and Register.

Annex A - Responses to Survey Questions

1. Inventory Criteria

Criteria 1 – The Intangible Cultural Heritage must be currently practised.

The Welsh Government believes that there is a tension between the wording of criteria 1 and criteria 2 as currently expressed which could be addressed by merging them to read:

- The Intangible Cultural Heritage can be from any time, but must be currently practised.

AGREE

Criteria 2 – The Intangible Cultural Heritage can be from any time

Criteria 2 currently states that the UK Government does not wish to place a historical start date or 'minimum age' for any item to be included in the inventory. The Welsh Government believes that ICH activity can only become recognised, embedded and transmitted after a certain period of time. Not applying a 'minimum age' or a criteria for proving that a practice is established risks placing an unnecessary pressure on the maintenance of inventories and the work of approval panels. A 'minimum age' would be appropriate – this could be a decision for each approval panel, to enable them to be responsive to cultural and societal changes.

DISAGREE

Criteria 3 – The Intangible Cultural Heritage can originate from anywhere

The UNESCO Convention states that some practices are common to more than one country, enabling a practice to be inscribed by a number of different countries, for example, [falconry](#).

The Welsh Government agrees with the criteria, but the first explanatory bullet could be amended as the singular use of 'culture' may be perceived as exclusionary. We believe that this would be more inclusive if re-worded to say '*... specific to a culture, cultures or communities*'.

AGREE

Criteria 4 – The Intangible Cultural Heritage must be a living practice and can not be a material product or object

The explanatory bullets indicate that DCMS does not have responsibility for food and language. The Welsh Government notes the importance of working across government department boundaries in relation to safeguarding ICH.

STRONGLY AGREE

2. Are there any criteria in addition to the above that should be added in your view?

No. The Welsh Government believes that the UK should adopt the criteria of the Convention as expressed by UNESCO.

Communities

3. Are you supportive of the concept of community representation? If not, why not? What suggestions do you have for obtaining support for a community for a submission to the Inventory?

The Welsh Government is supportive of community representation and is committed to the concept of cultural rights and cultural democracy, where communities lead on identifying what is culturally important. We agree that items submitted for inclusion on the UK and four nations' inventories should be community led.

The Welsh Government strongly believes that any UK process should be actively aware of the unconscious biases that could arise during decision making processes where certain ICH items are intrinsically linked to a minority language, culture or community.

Ensuring the full breadth of community representation on an approvals panel is more difficult. An approvals panel should have a focus on ensuring it includes diverse voices, and whilst it is unlikely that a panel can be representative of all communities across the UK or within any of the four nations, panel membership should be ethnically/racially diverse.

The process for submitting items for inclusion on an inventory must therefore have two distinct areas of consideration:

1. whether the item has the support of, and is representative of a community of practice, and
2. whether the right lived experience and expertise exists on the approvals panel to enable a thorough and fair consideration of the item submitted for listing.

Enabling flexible approaches, for example, ensuring panels can commission expertise or temporarily co-opt members with the right lived experience to help with considering a specific inventory application will be important. Ensuring a regular review of approval panels' skillsets, supporting regular turnover of panel membership, and developing frameworks for shared learning across the UK will help enable approval panels to resolve problems and be responsive to emerging challenges.

There is a need to understand the role of the Welsh Government in providing support to communities who wish to submit items for inclusion on the Wales inventory.

Categories

4. What are your views on the 5 categories?

STRONGLY AGREE.

The Welsh Government believes that the UK inventory categories should align with the UNESCO categories.

5. What are your views on the additional category of Traditional games and sports?

NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE.

Adding categories to the UK and four nation inventories may be helpful in safeguarding at UK level, but will not lead to these activities being recognised by UNESCO unless items listed in the UK inventory could be included within one of the five existing UNESCO categories. In this instance, traditional games and sports could be included under UNESCO's social practices, rituals and festive events category.

6. What are your views on the additional category of Culinary traditions / knowledge?

NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE.

Adding categories to the UK and four nation inventories may be helpful in safeguarding at UK level, but will not lead to these activities being recognised by UNESCO unless items listed in the UK inventory could be included within one of the five existing UNESCO categories. In this instance, culinary traditions could be included under UNESCO's knowledge and practices or traditional craftsmanship categories.

7. In your view, should there be any additional categories? If so, what categories would you want included?

A brief review of other countries' approaches to inventory categories suggests that there may be some benefit in adding a 'skills' element to the traditional craftsmanship category, to read 'traditional skills and craftsmanship'. Folklore is also a popular inventory category addition and would work well for Wales.

Approvals process

8. Are you supportive of our intended approach to the approvals process?

NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE.

The role of the Welsh Government in establishing an approvals panel for Wales is not clear in the explanation of the approvals process. We believe that the Welsh Government should play a lead role in considering and establishing an approvals panel for Wales, even if the intention is for the panel to be independent of Government.

Questions that will need to be addressed include the means by which appropriate members will be recruited to the panels. It is not clear whether the panel membership will be set up using a competitive, open and transparent process, similar to public appointments, how often the panel will meet, who will provide secretariat support, or whether these will be paid roles.

In addition to members with knowledge and experience of each of the category areas, and members from public bodies with responsibility and interest in those areas, it is important that the panels have a focus on diversity. In Wales, ensuring the panel provides appropriate regional representation and Welsh language skills will also be a consideration. In line with the legal status of the Welsh language in Wales, a Wales panel should be able to operate bilingually.

The proposed approach indicates no restrictions on re-applying for inclusion. If adopted, this should be supplemented by a common approach across the four nations and UK approval panels for dealing with vexatious applications.

Common terms of reference should be developed for all panels, with appropriate flexibility in place for four nation differences.

Article 8 of the Convention outlines the working methods of UNESCO's Intergovernmental Committee, and states that (3) The Committee may establish, on a temporary basis, whatever ad hoc consultative bodies it deems necessary to carry out its task; and (4) The Committee may invite to its meetings any public or private bodies, as well as private persons, with recognised competence in the various fields of the intangible cultural heritage, in order to consult them on specific matters. The Welsh Government believe that reflecting these approaches across the four nations' approval panels would be appropriate.

A UK approvals panel should include equal representation of each of the four nations.

Appeals from the four nations could be channelled upwards to the UK panel if the nation panel deems it appropriate.

Further information is required before the Welsh Government can support the proposed approvals process.

Review of the Inventory

9. Are you supportive of our intended approach to reviewing the inventory? Should the period of review be:

MORE OFTEN

Consideration should be given to an annual requirement for items to be reconfirmed by those responsible for submission so that items and contact details remain up to date. The proposal to move items to an inactive list if renewal does not take place is supported. The risk of longer periods between confirmation is for contacts to be lost and information held on the inventory to become increasingly out of date.

No details have been provided in the consultation regarding the membership, remit and responsibilities of the Safeguarding Committees and their relationship with the management of the Inventory. Welsh Government would welcome contributing to UK-wide discussions to agree appropriate approaches to this important element of the Convention in due course.



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Delyth Jewell MS
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
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8 March 2024

INT2024/01850/DC

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport regarding our plans to ratify the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage. I am replying as the Minister for Arts and Heritage.

Whilst the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) will act as the 'State Party' to the Convention, as much of culture and heritage policy is devolved, I have worked closely with the Devolved Administrations as we prepare for ratification.

HM Government believes that a benefit of ratifying this Convention is to start conversations about the extraordinary range and breadth of intangible cultural heritage across the whole United Kingdom, so I warmly welcome your interest and am glad to respond to your specific questions:

1. *What benefits can be expected from inclusion on the national inventory, such as access to funding or initiatives to support intangible heritage?*

The inventory is an important first stage in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage, and in ensuring the viability of intangible cultural heritage in the United Kingdom. Ratifying the Convention is intended to start a national conversation about cultural and community heritage and its value to the identity, pride and cohesion of our communities and people across all parts of the United Kingdom.

Inclusion on the inventory is the first step in this process. The initial benefit will be to recognise and raise awareness of the items that are included. Further aspects of safeguarding, such as seeking further funding or researching initiatives to support items on the inventory, will be considered as part of the ongoing conversations about how, collectively, we should safeguard living heritage in the United Kingdom.

2. *When it comes to the approval panels that will be allocated to each nation, how will the panel for Wales be established, and with which government will responsibility lie? For example, will the Welsh Government be determining the membership for the panel in Wales?*

We have been seeking public views on the functioning of the approval panels. We are now collating views and DCMS will work with the Devolved Administrations to agree next steps.

The Department has taken care to avoid making these panels burdensome or overly bureaucratic. That is why we are consulting in detail on the inventory criteria, in order to help make the approvals panel process as light-touch as possible.

3. *How does the UK Government envision a 'compatible inventory' operating, and how will the UK and Welsh governments work together to maintain the Convention's arrangements?*
4. *How will the UK Government work with the devolved governments to ensure the inventory is maintained?*

With regard to the inventories, continuing the approach of ensuring that implementation of the Convention is as light-touch as possible, DCMS and the Devolved Administrations have been discussing a model where the 'back end' or infrastructure for the inventories are managed in a single place. Each inventory will also use the same criteria and same submission format to minimise any duplicative effort.

It is a key aspect that intangible cultural heritage is not fixed and evolves as it is passed on from generation to generation. It is therefore also important that the inventories remain a living record and are kept up to date. We are also consulting on how best to ensure this and, as above, will launch discussions with the Devolved Administrations in due course.

Thank you again for your interest in this area. Intangible cultural heritage plays a hugely important role in the identity, pride, and cohesion of people and communities across the whole United Kingdom. I hope that, in ratifying this Convention, we can continue to work together to champion that role and the great value of our shared heritage.

With best wishes,



Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay
Minister for Arts & Heritage