

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3, Senedd

Meeting date: 2 October 2025

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Manon George, Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting

09.15 – 09.30

Public meeting

09.30 – 12.45

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

2 The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill: Ministerial evidence session

09.30 – 11.00

(Pages 1 – 25)

[Prohibition of Greyhound Racing \(Wales\) Bill](#)

[Explanatory Memorandum](#)

Huw Irranca-Davies, Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

James Morris, Bill Facilitator

Jackie Price, Head of the Greyhound Team

Elizabeth Thomas, Lawyer

Attached Documents:

Research brief



- 3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from items 4, 5 and 8 of this meeting**

11:00

Private meeting

- 4 The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill: Consideration of the evidence received**

11:00 – 11:15

- 5 The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill: Approach to Scrutiny**

11:15–11:20

(Pages 26 – 30)

Attached Documents:

Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill – Draft survey

Break

11.20 – 11.30

Public meeting

- 6 Annual scrutiny with arms-length bodies: Evidence session with the Arts Council of Wales**

11.30 – 12.45

(Pages 31 – 253)

Dafydd Rhys, Chief Executive

Lorna Virgo, Director of Finance and Business

Maggie Russell, Chair

Attached Documents:

Arts Council of Wales Draft General Activities Accounts 2024–25

Arts Council of Wales Draft Lottery Distribution Account 2024–25

Research briefing – Arts Council of Wales

7 Papers to note

12.45

7.1 Census 2021

(Page 254)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter from the Finance Committee to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language: Responding to the Cabinet Secretary's letter of 4 August 2025 on planning for Census 2031 – 22 September 2025

7.2 Appointment of the new Chair of S4C

(Pages 255 – 258)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts: Raising concerns about the appointment process for the Chair of S4C – 29 May 2025
Letter from the Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts: Responding to the Committee's letter of 29 May 2025 on the appointment process for the Chair of S4C – 24 September 2025

Private meeting

8 Annual scrutiny with arms-length bodies: Consideration of evidence

12.45 – 13.00

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Agenda Item 5

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

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Y Pwyllgor Cyllid Agenda Item 7.1

Finance Committee

Senedd Cymru

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Welsh Parliament

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Mark Drakefod MS

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

By email

22 September 2025

Dear Mark,

Planning for Census 2031

Thank you for your letter of 4 August 2025 on your work with the Office for National Statistics (ONS) in planning for the Census in 2031.

We are grateful to you for bringing this to our attention and we will consider our engagement with the ONS during the remainder of this Senedd as plans for the census progress. This includes reflecting on this issue in our Legacy Report to ensure it is prioritised by the appropriate committee in the Seventh Senedd.

I am copying this letter to the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee and the Culture, Communications and Welsh Language and International Relations Committee as it also relates to matters within their remit.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS, Chair of the Finance Committee

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



The Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
UK Government

29 May 2025

New Chair of S4C

Dear Lisa,

Delyth Evans appeared before the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee on 21 May 2025 for an evidence session following her recent appointment as Chair of S4C. During the session, we questioned Delyth about her priorities for S4C, as well as the main challenges facing the channel today and in the future. A transcript of the session is available on our website.

Whilst we endorse the appointment of Delyth Evans, we believe that the Committee should have had a formal involvement in the appointment of the Chair of S4C. Indeed, we had previously called for our committee, and the Senedd, to have had this involvement (which was a view supported on a cross-party basis). Whilst we recognise that broadcasting is a matter reserved to the UK Government, it is indelibly linked to a range of devolved matters including the Welsh language (which is particularly the case with S4C). It is an anomaly that powers over the only public service broadcaster operating solely in the Welsh language do not reside in the nation where that language is primarily spoken. We therefore believe that, in future, the Senedd Committee with responsibility for communications and culture should hold a pre-appointment hearing with the preferred candidate. It is our belief that the scrutiny of broadcasting, and the accountability of those tasked with running broadcasting organisations, would improve were the Senedd given a role.

We note that the Welsh Government was represented on the Advisory Assessment Panel. As was, however, stated in previous correspondence, we believe that the responsibility for making such an appointment should be held jointly between the UK and Welsh governments. In our 2024 report on [Public Service Broadcasting in Wales](#) we recommended that:

"The UK Government appointment of the S4C Chair should require the agreement of the Welsh Government. This should be accompanied by offering a Senedd

committee the opportunity to hold a pre-appointment hearing with the preferred candidate."

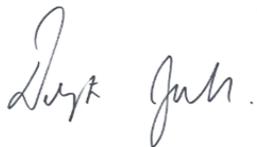
Our predecessor committee recommended, in its [Exploring the devolution of broadcasting report](#), that powers over Welsh language broadcasting, including S4C, should be devolved, and that a suitable Senedd Committee should conduct confirmation hearings for roles including the Chair of S4C. The position that a Senedd Committee should have a formal role in the appointment of the Chair of S4C is therefore a long-standing position with cross-party support in the Senedd.

These points notwithstanding, we were impressed by Delyth Evans, and believe that she is suitable for the post. We wish her well in the role and we look forward to continuing our relationship with S4C.

I would wish to take this opportunity to remind the UK Government of the importance of S4C to Wales as a nation. The channel's work over the past four decades in providing Welsh language content has been of pivotal importance, and S4C is playing a key role in the work towards achieving the target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 20250. For far too long, the future funding of S4C has been uncertain. Since 2010, the UK Government has reduced S4C's funding in real-terms by roughly 40 per cent. This is a significant reduction. It is surely the case that the only public service broadcaster that broadcasts solely in Welsh should be funded adequately, both to allow S4C to provide services across platforms, and to ensure that it can continue to play a role in supporting the 2050 target.

I am copying this letter to Geraint Evans, Chief Executive of S4C.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
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24 September 2025

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

INT2025/09320/DC

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 29 May 2025 to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, regarding the appointment of Delyth Evans as the new Chair of S4C. I am responding as the Minister responsible for media policy. I appreciate you sharing your views on the current appointments process and recognise the vital importance of collaboration in S4C appointments, as well as the unique and crucial role that S4C plays in Wales.

The UK Government recognises that S4C is central to life in Wales, telling diverse national stories in the Welsh language, while driving social cohesion through creating shared moments, for example recently through its coverage of the Eisteddfod. S4C's activities also make an enormously valuable contribution to the creative economy in Wales and we want S4C to continue creating high quality local jobs and driving growth across Wales.

I am glad you consider that Ms Evans' vision for S4C's future reflects a deep understanding of the Welsh cultural and media landscape, as well as an enduring commitment to public service. This marks an exciting chapter for S4C as we develop plans to boost the job opportunities and growth potential of the creative industries in Wales and the rest of the UK.

The UK Government's position is that the UK-wide approach to broadcasting generates significant economies of scale that support Welsh broadcasting and Welsh production. In terms of regulation, this ensures efficiency for broadcasters, providing certainty and a single regime for market participants who are active across the whole of the UK.

While broadcasting remains reserved, the UK Government is committed to ensuring the interests of all nations and regions are reflected in the development of broadcasting policy. We'll continue to work with the Welsh Government on issues relating to broadcasting. We also welcome the ongoing contributions of Welsh authorities, including Creative Wales.

With regard to the role of the Welsh Government in the appointment of the Chair of S4C, as you will be aware, S4C public appointments are made in compliance with the Broadcasting Act 1990 and the Media Act 2024, and non-executive appointments to the board - including that of the Chair - are made by the Secretary of State. The DCMS Concordat with the Welsh Assembly Government (April 2011 Annex E Para 7) states that 'DCMS will consult with the Minister for Heritage on "Welsh appointments" to the Boards of the BBC and S4C.'

The views of the Welsh Government were considered throughout the appointment process for the Chair of S4C. As has been standard for previous S4C appointments, prior to the launch of the campaign, the Welsh Government was consulted on the role specification and asked to suggest potential candidates to approach for the role. The Welsh Government was also invited to appoint a representative to the Advisory Assessment Panel which was responsible for assessing which candidates were appointable to the role of Chair. The Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism was then consulted for views at the final appointment decision stage. Our experience in the process that led to the appointment of Delyth Evans as S4C Chair was that these arrangements worked well and that there was effective collaboration and consultation within the parameters of this framework. I also note that your Committee is able to call the S4C Chair, during her tenure, to give evidence and take questions about S4C, which is both welcome and appropriate. We therefore have no plans to change current appointment processes.

Looking ahead, I can confirm that the UK Government will continue to examine broader minority language broadcasting provisions as part of the BBC Charter Review and we look forward to working with the Welsh Government, the Senedd, and stakeholders in Wales as we continue our joint efforts to bolster Welsh broadcasting and ensure S4C continues to thrive.

Yours sincerely,


Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts

Cc: the Rt Hon Jo Stevens MP, Secretary of State for Wales