

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5, Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: 8 October 2025

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Richard Thomas, Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting

09:15–09:30

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

09:30

2 Annual scrutiny with arms-length bodies – Evidence session with Amgueddfa Cymru

09:30–10:45

Jane Richardson, Chief Executive

Kate Eden, Chair

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Amgueddfa Cymru – Written evidence

Legal Advice Note

Break

10:45–10:55



3 Annual scrutiny with arms-length bodies – Evidence session with the National Library of Wales

10:55–12:10

Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Chief Executive

Ashok Ahir, President

Attached Documents:

Research brief

National Library of Wales – Draft accounts 2024–25

4 Papers to note

12:10

4.1 Committee recommendations

(Pages 1 – 2)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter from the First Minister to the Llywydd: Expressing concern about the volume of recommendations made by Committees to the Welsh Government – 23 July 2025

4.2 Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill

(Pages 3 – 10)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: Requesting timely publication of the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill and an update on the judicial review application – 21 August 2025

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: Confirming publication of the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill in draft on 28 August – 11 September 2025

Letter to the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: Requesting an update on the judicial review application –

19 September 2025

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: Providing an update on the judicial review application – 29 September 2025

- 5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting.**

12:10

- 6 Annual scrutiny with arms-length bodies: Consideration of the evidence received**

12:10–12:30

Our ref: FM/PO/371/25

Rt Hon. Elin Jones MS
Chair
Chairs Forum

23 July 2025

Dear Elin,

I attended the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister on 13 December 2024, and whilst I made clear my view that Senedd Committees do great work, I also expressed concern about the volume of recommendations which are often made by Committees to the Welsh Government.

As a government, we need to be realistic about our ability to deliver Committee recommendations and of the need to consider recommendations in the context of the limited resources which are available. If the current volume continues, the government is likely to need to reject more recommendations going forward to ensure we can continue to focus on delivering for the people of Wales.

I am keen to get to a position where Committees, in carrying out their work, concentrate on fewer recommendations, with a focus on specific and clearly defined recommendations which will have the greatest impact as appropriate to the matter under consideration.

In making these observations, I do not seek to fetter the critical work of our Senedd Committees in scrutinising and holding the government to account. Targeting efforts and experience in this way however, will help us collectively to continue to deliver effectively for the people of Wales.

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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.

I would be grateful if this could be fed back to the Chair of each Committee, who I'm sure will wish to consider prior to the expansion of the Senedd. We will also respond with further detail to your letter of 8 July seeking views as part of the Chairs' Forum review of Committee operations in the sixth Senedd.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eluned Morgan', written in a cursive style.

Eluned Morgan

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

21 August 2025

Approach to consideration of the Greyhound (Wales) Bill

Dear Huw,

I understand the Welsh Government is aiming to introduce the Greyhound (Wales) Bill to the Senedd on 29 September 2025. The Business Committee has decided to refer the Bill to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee for scrutiny.

I note that the proposed timetable allows only eight sitting weeks for Stage 1 committee consideration. This will significantly limit the time available both to the Committee and external stakeholders to undertake thorough scrutiny of the Bill. I am sure you can appreciate that we will want to make the most of this limited time and will want to start our evidence gathering as soon as possible.

To enable this, I am writing to request that the Welsh Government commits to publishing the Bill and associated materials, such as the Explanatory Memorandum, in draft on 1 September, or as soon as practically possible, in advance of the Bill's introduction. This would give key stakeholders the opportunity to consider, at an early stage, the proposals in the draft Bill. We intend to launch a call for written evidence and hold oral evidence sessions with external stakeholders as soon as possible after the introduction of the Bill. Without early access to the draft Bill, stakeholders will have very limited time to prepare their contributions.

I understand that an implementation group to guide the transition towards a ban on greyhound racing in Wales has been set up by the Welsh Government. I would be grateful if you could provide

the Committee with a list of stakeholders in this group. Given the limited time available for scrutiny, this would help to ensure that we engage with as many interested stakeholders as possible.

I also understand that the Welsh Government's decision to ban greyhound racing in Wales has been the subject of a judicial review application. I would be grateful if you could please share your view as to whether the proposed challenge affects your plans to introduce the Bill. The decision to lodge a judicial review also highlights the importance of publishing the Bill early in draft to ensure that we can engage as widely as possible on its proposals.

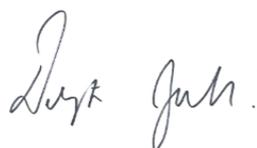
Finally, I would request that the Welsh Government makes officials available to provide the Committee with a private technical briefing on the Bill prior to its introduction. This would greatly assist our preparatory work.

Despite the eight-week Stage 1 being far from ideal, the Committee is committed to scrutinising the Bill to the fullest extent possible in the time available. I therefore hope that you will appreciate that we are in a difficult position and that these are exceptional circumstances which require a change to the usual approach to Bill scrutiny.

I would ask that you please consider our proposed approach at the earliest opportunity.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Business Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet
dros Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for
Climate Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

11 September 2025

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter dated 21 August regarding the Committee's approach to consideration of the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill. I can confirm that the Government intends to introduce the Bill during the autumn term, subject to the Llywydd's Determination.

The Counsel General and Minister for Delivery confirmed our intention to make full use of the available time to introduce new legislation this Senedd term by bringing forward a number of Bills in the final year of the Senedd during the annual Legislative Statement. As such, I am keen to work with the Committee to ensure that you are able to make the most of the limited time remaining this Senedd term to scrutinise the Bill to the fullest extent possible.

A bilingual copy of the draft Bill has been published on the Welsh Government website and can be found at the following link [The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing \(Wales\) Bill](#). Please note that this is not a final version, and that it is possible that there could be changes as required by the Determination process before it is introduced to the Senedd.

In addition, please find attached an English only copy of the draft Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment. I would be grateful if this could be considered in confidence until publication at introduction.

The key stakeholders for this Bill are the members of the [Greyhound Racing Ban Implementation Group](#), representing a broad spectrum of the sectors who may be affected by the legislation, and the [Greyhound Board of Great Britain](#) as the regulator for licensed greyhound racing.

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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.

With appropriate caveats and rationale, I intend to share an in-confidence English-only copy of the draft Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment with these stakeholders. This would give them the opportunity to consider, at an early stage, the proposals in the draft Bill and inform their oral and written evidence.

As you note in your letter, these are exceptional circumstances which require a creative approach, and we would not want this to set a precedent.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Huw Irranca-Davies', written in a cursive style.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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

19 September 2025

The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill

Dear Huw,

Thank you for your letter of 11 September 2025 regarding the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill, which we considered at our meeting on 17 September.

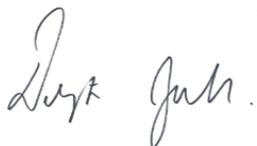
We note that you are “keen to work with the Committee to ensure that you are able to make the most of the limited time remaining this Senedd term to scrutinise the Bill to the fullest extent possible”. On that basis, we would be grateful if you could offer your full co-operation and flexibility in arranging ministerial evidence sessions as we will be working towards an extremely tight Stage 1 deadline. As a committee, we are committed to fulfilling our scrutiny responsibilities as effectively as possible in the limited time available to use.

In our letter of 21 August 2025, we asked whether you could share your views as to whether the proposed judicial review challenge of the decision to ban greyhound racing in Wales affects plans to introduce the Bill. We note that your response confirms “that the Government intends to introduce the Bill during the autumn term, subject to the Llywydd’s Determination”. However, there is no reference to the judicial review application in your letter. We would be grateful if you could update the Committee on its status because, at this stage, we do not have any information beyond the media reports, which is concerning. We expect to be kept up to date in relation to the application for judicial review, specifically whether there are ‘active proceedings’, and any implications that would flow from that in relation to Stage 1 scrutiny.

We are grateful to the Welsh Government for publishing the draft Bill in advance, enabling stakeholders to begin considering its proposals and inform preparing their evidence. We are, however, disappointed that the draft Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment have not been shared with all stakeholders. I note that you have shared these documents with “key stakeholders”, but it is surely for the Committee to determine who the stakeholders are for scrutiny purposes. I would therefore be grateful for your permission for the Committee to share an in-confidence copy of the draft Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment with our stakeholders.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Business Committee.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell AS
Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

29 September 2025

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 19 September regarding the Prohibition of the Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill.

I am grateful for the Committee's commitment to scrutiny during the time available for this Bill and I will ensure to be as flexible as possible. With regards to the second Ministerial evidence session on the Bill you'll be aware that my officials are in discussion with yours, and I hope that an arrangement to accommodate this can be agreed to shortly.

You asked for an update on the status of the proposed judicial review challenge to the decision to ban greyhound racing and for my view on whether it affects plans to introduce the Bill.

A judicial review claim has been issued seeking to challenge the proposal to introduce a Bill to ban greyhound racing in Wales and we have responded to the claim. This has not affected plans to introduce the Bill.

Judicial review proceedings have commenced, and we are waiting for a permission decision to be issued. We cannot predict when a decision will be made, it is a matter for the courts. If permission is granted, we anticipate receiving either a Directions Order setting out the timetable before a substantive hearing or else a listing for a Case Management Hearing. We do not know when a hearing date would be if permission is granted, although I understand spring 2026 is likely.

As this is now the subject of litigation, it would not be appropriate to comment further at this stage.

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

The Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment have now been shared with members of the Implementation Group and the Greyhound Board of Great Britain. The members of the Implementation Group were identified by my officials as key stakeholders affected by the Bill's policy objectives, at the outset and during its development to introduction. I welcome that the Committee will identify its own key stakeholders during its scrutiny of the Bill, once introduced.

The Greyhound Board of Great Britain declined the invitation to join the Implementation Group, however they remain key stakeholders who would be directly affected by the Bill and so the draft Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment have also been shared with them.

The Explanatory Memorandum and Regulatory Impact Assessment will be published alongside the Bill at introduction today.

I am copying this letter to the Counsel General and Minister for Delivery.

Yours sincerely,



Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig

Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs