

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 5, Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: 27 November 2025

Meeting time: 11.00

For further information contact:

Richard Thomas

Committee Clerk

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SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting

10:45–11:00

Private

1 Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill: Consideration of draft report

11:00–12:15

(Pages 1 – 107)

Attached Documents:

Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill – Stage One Draft Report

Written evidence: Caerphilly County Borough Council – 10 November 2025

Written evidence: UKAS – 10 November 2025

Written evidence: Cut the Chase coalition – 11 November 2025

Written evidence: UKAS – 18 November 2025

Written evidence: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs – 18 November 2025

Written evidence: Greyhound Rescue Wales – 21 November 2025

Written evidence: Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs – 24 November 2025

Break

12:15–13:00



Public

2 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

13:00

3 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government draft budget 2026–27: Evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

13:00–14:30

(Pages 108 – 145)

Mark Drakeford MS, Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

Elin Burns, Director of Culture, Heritage, Sport and Welsh Language

Jeremy Evas, Head: Prosiect 2050

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Welsh Government written evidence

4 Papers to note

14:30

4.1 Appointment of the Chair of S4C

(Pages 146 – 147)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport: Requesting that the department reconsiders its position in relation to the Senedd involvement in the appointment of the Chair of S4C – 17 November 2025

4.2 Welsh Government international relations

(Page 148)

Attached Documents:

Ministerial Inward–Outward visits for October 2025 – 18 November 2025

4.3 Inter-institutional relations agreement

(Page 149)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs regarding the tenth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee - 19 November 2025

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

14:30

Private

6 Scrutiny of the Welsh Government draft budget 2026-27: Consideration of evidence and key issues

14:30-15:00

Document is Restricted

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

Document is Restricted

10 November 2025

Dear colleagues,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written information to the Senedd’s Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee regarding the Welsh Government’s Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill. This letter sets out UKAS’s role as the National Accreditation Body in the context of greyhound racing.

1. UKAS’s role as National Accreditation Body

UKAS is appointed by government as the UK’s National Accreditation Body, through the Accreditation Regulation 2009, and operates under a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department for Business and Trade. UKAS is a private company, limited by guarantee. In accordance with UK law and government policy, accreditation must operate as a public authority activity, in the public interest, delivered by a single not-for-profit National Accreditation Body¹. UKAS is the only body recognised by government for the accreditation of conformity assessment bodies in the UK.

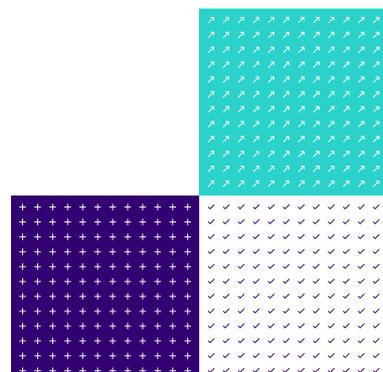
Accreditation is the recognition of the competence of organisations providing conformity assessment services, such as certification, to carry out specific activities in accordance with national and international standards².

Accreditation bodies, such as UKAS, do not set the standards against which they assess. Standards are developed through multi-stakeholder, consensus-based processes; in the UK this process is delivered by the British Standards Institution and UKAS input to its standards development process where expertise on accredited conformity assessment is needed.

Accreditation is conducted on a four-year cycle, which includes an initial evaluation, annual surveillance and a full reassessment to confirm ongoing compliance and competence. It provides impartial, third-party assurance that standards are being met at the time of assessment. UKAS’s accreditation services are used across the market, including for food and farming, renewable energy, physiological diagnostic services, forensic science, engineering and product safety.

¹ UK government policy on accreditation: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/conformity-assessment-and-accreditation>

² Conformity assessment bodies also include organisations providing calibration, testing, certification, inspection, verification, validation or medical diagnostic services.



UKAS, alongside the British Standards Institution and the National Physical Laboratory, is part of the UK's 'quality infrastructure', a framework for conformity assessment, accreditation, standards and measurement. This framework supports government policy and underpins the safety and quality of products and services used across the economy.

UKAS accreditation is globally recognised, enabled through its status as a signatory to the multilateral recognition agreements of the International Accreditation Forum and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation and, within the European region, the European co-operation for Accreditation.

These multilateral recognition agreements facilitate trade and represent an extensive network of accreditations bodies promoting international cooperation on conformity assessment activities.

2. UKAS's role in the context of greyhound racing

Since March 2010, UKAS has accredited the Greyhound Board of Great Britain Limited (GBGB) to ISO/IEC 17065:2012, the international standard for bodies certifying products, processes or services, to provide product conformity certification. The scope of GBGB's accreditation is limited to the provision by racecourses of licensed greyhound racing in accordance with the relevant rules contained within the GBGB Rules of Racing. This includes the requirements of the Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010 and those identified within the GBGB Racecourse Certification Inspection Documents.

GBGB is also the owner of a certification scheme³, the Greyhound Trainers' Residential Kennels Certification Scheme, for greyhound trainers' residential kennels in England, Wales and Scotland. UKAS accredits Supply Chain In-Sites Limited to ISO/IEC 17065:2012 for their activity in relation to the Greyhound Trainers' Residential Kennels Certification Scheme. The Scheme incorporates PAS 251:2017 – Version 3⁴ and a series of 5 position statements, issued by GBGB, which covers requirements for the fabrication, size, facilities and management of kennels, as well as animal welfare requirements such as environmental enrichment, diet, exercise, handling, training and veterinary healthcare.

UKAS has accredited Supply Chain In-Sites Limited to deliver the Greyhound Trainers' Residential Kennels Certification Scheme since December 2023. Any activity that took place before that date, even if now covered by the Scheme, has not been assessed by UKAS.

UKAS notes the withdrawal of PAS 251:2017 – Version 3 and will conduct the necessary review with GBGB in advance of Supply Chain In-Sites Limited's next annual assessment to ensure that the Greyhound Trainers' Residential Kennels Certification Scheme remains fit-for-purpose.

UKAS's role is not to assess directly the welfare of racing greyhounds, rather it assesses the competence, integrity and impartiality of the relevant

³ A scheme owner is a legal entity with legal responsibility for the development and maintenance of a conformity assessment scheme, but may not operate it themselves.

⁴ A PAS, Publicly Available Specification, is a fast-track standard, developed by the British Standards Institution, establishing best practice for products, processes or services. PASs are developed in response to an identified market need, often at the request of a sponsor.

certification bodies to carry out their activities within the scope of the relevant standard and scheme.

Hence, UKAS's accreditation means that GBGB has demonstrated the level of competence required by the relevant international standard to certify against the requirements of the GBGB Rules of Racing and Supply Chain In-Sites Limited has also demonstrated the required level of competence to certify against the Greyhound Trainers' Residential Kennels Certification Scheme at the time of their assessments.

UKAS monitors GBGB and Supply Chain In-Sites Limited annually during head office and witnessed assessments. Their accreditations represent confidence at the time of the assessment in their ability to deliver the specific activities within scope of their accreditation.

UKAS does not assess any activities that fall outside the scope of the GBGB Rules of Racing and Greyhound Trainers' Residential Kennels Certification Scheme respectively. The scope of UKAS's accreditation's does not include the whole-life experience of racing greyhounds. UKAS accreditation should not be seen to pass judgement on any activities outside of the scope of its assessments. For example, UKAS accreditation does not cover kennels for greyhounds under fifteen months, kennels for retired greyhounds, greyhound breeding establishments or other breeds of dogs⁵.

UKAS has a thorough complaints and feedback policy, including whistleblowing. Should UKAS receive a complaint regarding an accredited conformity assessment body, we would conduct the necessary investigations in accordance with the policy, which may include technical interviews, document review and unannounced assessment.

UKAS reviewed the Greyhound Trainers' Residential Kennels Certification Scheme in July 2023 for compliance with ISO/IEC 17065:2012 and ISO/IEC 17067:2013, the international standard for certification scheme owners⁶. This review was conducted as part of an organisational review of all UKAS's accreditation schemes to ensure that schemes remain fit-for-purpose and address any identified actions. Any issues identified were in connection with the governance of the scheme and were satisfactorily addressed.

Should you have any further questions or clarifications as to UKAS's role, colleagues or I would be pleased to discuss.

Yours sincerely,



Matt Gantley

Chief Executive
United Kingdom Accreditation Service

⁵ When a combination of racing and retired greyhounds, or greyhounds that are deemed puppies and/or are an age whereby they are ineligible to race, are accommodated within greyhound trainers' residential kennels, then the requirements of PAS 251:2017 – Version 3 apply to both.

⁶ Note: Scheme reviews can take place before a grant of accreditation is awarded, as in this case.

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

Document is Restricted

18 November 2025

UKAS response to Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, International Relations Committee query.

Query (received 12.11.25):

“We still need clarity on the suggestion from Dogs Trust that the UKAS process is “purely a document-auditing certification,” whereas GBGB stated that “all licensed stadia and residential kennels are subjected to an annual, independent inspection by external auditors.” From Matt Gantley’s letter, where he states that “UKAS’s role is not to assess directly the welfare of racing greyhounds,” we take it that UKAS is not the external auditor referred to by GBGB. However, it remains unclear to what extent on-the-ground inspections take place, what they involve, and their frequency.”

UKAS response:

The evidence referenced above by the Dogs Trust, suggesting that UKAS completes “purely a document-auditing certification”, conflates the certification activities of GBGB and Supply Chain In-Sites Limited with their accreditation by UKAS.

UKAS, as National Accreditation Body, assesses the technical competence and impartiality of conformity assessment bodies, such as certification bodies like GBGB and Supply Chain In-Sites Limited.

Therefore, UKAS is not the organisation ‘auditing’ licensed greyhound stadia and residential kennels, rather it is confirming the technical competence of GBGB and Supply Chain In-Sites Limited, against the relevant standard and scheme, to do so.

The “independent inspection by external auditors” referred to by GBGB is likely the certification activity carried out by GBGB, in accordance with the GBGB Rules of Racing, and by Supply Chain In-Sites Limited, in accordance with the Greyhound Trainers’ Residential Kennels Certification Scheme.

Accreditation is conducted on a four-year cycle. This involves a full evaluation of the conformity assessment body every fourth year and a surveillance assessment in the intervening years to ensure ongoing compliance with the relevant standard or scheme.

UKAS’s annual surveillance assessment of GBGB and Supply Chain In-Sites Limited consists of an assessment of a sample of their certification activity, including, but not limited to document checks. For example, UKAS’s assessments include accompanying these certification bodies on their audits to assess their interpretation and application

of the schemes within their accredited scope, as well as reviewing a sample of their audit reports for completeness and presence of objective evidence. UKAS may also assess the training of certification body auditors, complaints and appeal handling and management systems.

Hence, UKAS's assessments are not of greyhound welfare directly, they are of the activities of GBGB and Supply Chain In-Sites Limited within the scope of their accreditations.

UKAS notes inspection and certification are separate forms of conformity assessment. As such, for the purpose of activities within scope of their UKAS accreditation, where GBGB refer to "inspection" they mean "certification".

Ends.

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

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair of the Finance Committee

SeneddFinance@senedd.wales

18 November 2025

Dear Peredur,

Thank you for your letter of 9 October regarding the Prohibition of the Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill.

I am grateful for the opportunity to assist the Committee in its scrutiny of the financial implications of the Bill. The attached document provides the further information the Committee has requested.

As your letter to me was copied to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee, I am doing the same.

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

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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.

Establishing the Costs and Benefits of the Bill

1. The Bill and Explanatory Memorandum were laid before the Senedd ahead of the Greyhound Racing Ban Implementation Group's Report and workplan, which is due this Autumn. Why have you taken this approach and how might the Implementation Group's Report impact on financial implications of the Bill?

The decision to introduce the Bill ahead of the Implementation Group's first report reflects the Welsh Government's commitment to move to a ban as soon as practicably possible, to act decisively in response to strong public and cross-party support, as evidenced in consultation responses and Senedd debate for a ban on greyhound racing.

The Bill's introduction allows for full Senedd scrutiny, while the implementation window, between April 2027 and April 2030, provides ample time for the Implementation Group to continue its work and inform the transition.

A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) has been carried out and published, based on the information available to us. Through the Implementation Group and ongoing engagement with stakeholders, we continue to gather further evidence to support the ongoing assessment of the policy's impact throughout the Bill process.

Any further information made available will be assessed and will inform the potential financial impact of the ban. Both the RIA and the Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA) will be reviewed and further developed as necessary throughout the Bill's scrutiny to its passage, ensuring that any emerging considerations are appropriately addressed and reflected.

2. What role has the Greyhound Racing Ban Implementation Group played in the preparation and review of the Regulatory Impact Assessment?

A Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) has been carried out and published, based on the information available to us. The Implementation Group provides strategic guidance and practical advice, including on financial and socio-economic impacts. Their input will inform revisions to the RIA as the Bill progresses.

Caerphilly County Borough Council and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) are represented on the Implementation Group, and officials have engaged with local authority representatives in Caerphilly during the preparation of the RIA.

At present as stated in the published RIA the extent of some impacts is unknown, including on employment, the local economy and communities and industries associated to Valley. As the legislative process progresses, we hope that more detailed evidence is made available via the group, and we will continue to assess the impact of the ban.

Due to the absence of published financial accounts and limited disclosure from Valley, the full economic impact of the Bill on the business and its associates remains uncertain. However, we continue to pursue this information through the Implementation Group, direct engagement and other available sources.

Representation from Valley and SIS Media on the Implementation Group ensures that the perspectives of those directly involved in the industry are heard, and that practical insights inform the development of mitigation measures and support mechanisms.

The impact of the ban remains a key consideration, and we are actively undertaking work to seek information relating to its financial and socio-economic implications as part of our ongoing work.

3. What specific evidence have you used to estimate the financial implications of the Bill and how have you engaged with stakeholders in deriving your estimates?

To inform the initial assessment of financial implications and to set out the best estimates officials have made direct information requests to organisations, reviewed publicly available records, such as Companies House, and engaged with members of the Implementation Group to explore any relevant insights or data.

Officials have engaged directly with the local authority in Caerphilly as well as through the Implementation Group to provide indicative costs associated with any anticipated enforcement activity. This engagement was facilitated through the Local Government Partnership Scheme, which enabled early dialogue with relevant stakeholders and helped establish a baseline understanding of potential resource requirements.

The Welsh Government's cost estimates were informed by precedent from similar legislative exercises. Existing rates and resource requirements used for previous recent legislation were applied to calculate the level of staffing and materials likely to be required. This included consideration of the time and expertise needed to produce guidance, communication materials, and other supporting documentation necessary for implementation.

At present as stated in the published RIA the extent of some impacts is unknown, due to a lack of available information including on employment, the local economy and communities and industries associated to Valley.

My officials have on several occasions, requested detailed information from Valley and SIS Ltd, both via the Implementation Group and through direct engagement. This includes commercial, contractual, employment and financial data, as well as social and attendance figures, to support further assessment of the Bill's social, economic and financial impacts.

The information provided to date regarding Valley Stadium's operations, commercial arrangements and staffing remains high level.

Engagement with Valley Stadium and the Implementation group is ongoing and any information provided will inform future updates to the RIA and wider integrated impact assessments.

4. Why have you adopted a five-year appraisal period for the financial implications of the Bill?

A five-year appraisal period was adopted as it reflects the expected lifecycle of financial impact following the Bill's implementation. The primary costs associated with the Bill are one-off in nature, relating to initial setup, enforcement preparation, and the development of supporting materials. Once these systems are in place, there is no anticipated ongoing need for review of the financial implications nor significant additional expenditure.

Given that future years beyond implementation are expected to incur minimal or no costs, a five-year period was considered proportionate and sufficient to capture the relevant financial implications.

5. What are the current annual costs incurred by relevant public bodies in Wales—including law enforcement, regulatory agencies, and any other stakeholders—in monitoring, investigating, and responding to issues relating to greyhound racing activities?

There are currently no specific regulations governing greyhound racing in Wales, and as such, no direct annual costs are incurred by public bodies in monitoring or enforcing greyhound racing activities.

However, costs do arise in relation to broader animal welfare issues directly associated with greyhound racing activities, which are addressed and enforced under existing legislation such as the Animal Welfare Act 2006.

Caerphilly County Borough Council is the only authority identified to date as having incurred costs, specifically in relation to enforcing animal welfare provisions in relation to greyhound racing activities at Valley. We remain in close communication with Caerphilly through both the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), contact within the Implementation Group and through direct engagement between officials and local authority representatives.

We continue to engage with local authorities via the Implementation Group to gather any anticipated enforcement-related expenditure. At present, these costs are estimated to be negligible as set out in the published RIA.

The Bill is designed to be cost-neutral for enforcement bodies. No new systems are created, and existing local authority inspectors will enforce the ban.

Specific Costs Associated with the Policy Proposals

6. The RIA notes nearly two-thirds of respondents to a public consultation supported a phased ban. How has this been reflected in the Bill and your estimate of its financial implications?

A phased ban was considered in response to the recommendations made by the Final Bend report by the Petitions Committee, which highlighted the need for a

transitional approach. The majority of stakeholders in favour of greyhound racing acknowledged the need for a transition period to allow for appropriate preparation and mitigation for both the industry and to protect the welfare of greyhounds.

This has been reflected in the Bill through the proposed coming-into-force date, which provides a clear window for the industry to prepare for the ban. This transitional period also allows rehoming charities, local communities, and the Welsh Government to plan and implement measures to mitigate any potential socio-economic impacts.

In terms of financial implications, the RIA has accounted for the transitional phase. While any costs incurred during this window are expected to be minimal and one off, they will be monitored and, if necessary, mitigated through engagement with the Implementation Group and relevant stakeholders.

7. All quantified costs in the RIA relate to staff time to prepare bilingual guidance and for communicating the ban, but these do not include senior officials' oversight of the guidance or publicity material prior to their publication, or any non-staff costs. How confident are you that your estimates of the financial implications of the Bill are complete and accurate; how have you tested the reasonableness of your approach and the assumptions you have adopted in the calculations?

The RIA includes staff time for bilingual guidance and communications. While senior oversight time has not been separately quantified, it is expected to be absorbed within existing workloads and is not anticipated to materially affect the overall cost profile and is considered proportionate.

We have benchmarked our assumptions against similar activities, such as the development of guidance and communications for other Bills, to ensure our estimates are proportionate.

Given the limited scale of greyhound racing in Wales, ongoing costs are expected to be minimal. We are confident that our approach reasonably reflects the costs associated with developing guidance and communications. As no new systems or processes are required to implement the ban, the overall costs are minimal.

8. What is the estimated cost of the Greyhound Racing Ban Implementation Group and why has this not been included in the RIA?

£100k has been set aside for the establishment and administration of the Implementation Group in 2025/26.

The Implementation Group has been established to provide practical advice and guidance up to the point at which the ban comes into force. We expect the Group to remain active until that time, or until it reports that the implications of the Bill have been sufficiently mitigated to allow commencement.

While the costs incurred to date are considered sunk and are therefore correctly excluded from the current RIA, if the lead-in period extends into future years up to

2030, any additional costs will be factored into future revisions of the RIA as our understanding develops.

9. The RIA does not quantify the financial loss to the only greyhound racecourse in Wales, Valley Greyhound Stadium. You note Valley does not publish full accounts but what steps have you taken to obtain financial information about its operation, including the consequences for its contract with Sports Information Services for live streaming of racing?

My officials have, on several occasions, requested detailed information from Valley, both via the Implementation Group and through direct engagement. This includes commercial, contractual, employment and financial data, as well as social and attendance figures, to support a more comprehensive assessment of the Bill's social, economic, and financial impacts.

Engagement with Valley is ongoing and any information provided will inform future updates to the RIA and wider integrated impact assessments.

To inform the initial assessment of financial implications and to set out the best estimates officials have made direct information requests to organisations, reviewed publicly available records and data sets, such as Companies House, and engaged with members of the Implementation Group to explore any relevant insights or data,

10. Will the owner of Valley Stadium be entitled to any compensation following the ban?

Our view on the facts as we understand them is that the Bill achieves a fair and proportionate balance between the protection of the rights of those affected by the Bill and the effectiveness of the proposed ban without the need for compensation. There is no provision for compensation in the Bill.

11. What assessment have you made of the impact of the ban on those directly or indirectly employed in the industry, as well as on the wider economy?

There is currently one greyhound racing stadium in Wales, Valley. We recognise that the closure of this stadium will have economic consequences. The Bill currently includes provision for a lead in time before coming into force, no earlier than April 2027, and no later than April 2030, to help the business and the local community adjust. We're committed to working with stakeholders to manage this transition.

The RIA accompanying the draft legislation outlines our current understanding of the potential impacts of the proposed ban. It acknowledges the limitations of existing data and identifies areas where further analysis will be undertaken if additional information becomes available.

As the legislative process progresses, we are actively seeking more detailed evidence to support a robust assessment of these socio-economic implications. Understanding the impact of the ban is a key priority.

Through the Implementation Group and ongoing engagement with stakeholders, we continue to seek further evidence to support the ongoing assessment of the impact throughout the Bill process.

12. What consideration have you made of the approach taken to estimate the financial implications of the Bill in Scotland?

The Scottish Animal Welfare Committee's report and the Scottish Bill have informed Wales's approach. Differences in assumptions reflect Wales evidence base, stakeholder engagement and recent legislative exercises.

There are key contextual differences, which mean that direct comparisons in enforcement costs or legal processes are not always applicable. Scotland's justice and enforcement systems also differ from those in Wales, including their approach to penalties and enforcement, which further limits comparability. The scale of greyhound racing in Wales is different to that in Scotland. Wales has an active commercial greyhound track, whereas Scotland has only one independent track that is not currently operating. In Wales, the anticipated financial and operational impacts, particularly in terms of enforcement, are proportionately lower. Our estimates reflect this context, and our costs are expected to be minimal.

13. While noting the Bills differ, the Financial Memorandum for the Bill in Scotland includes a range of costs for rehoming retired greyhounds (an estimate of which you say would be "speculative") and for prosecuting the small number of cases expected each year (you assume the cost of enforcement would be zero). On the basis of what evidence have you made different assumptions for these costs?

It is recognised that there may be some short-term costs associated with rehoming retired greyhounds as a direct consequence of the ban. Welfare groups are actively involved in planning to mitigate these impacts independently and through their representation on the Implementation Group. We will work with animal welfare charities through the Implementation Group to minimise negative impacts.

The Bill is expected to come into force between April 2027 and 2030. The implementation of the prohibition on greyhound racing will be carefully managed to ensure a smooth transition and to mitigate the impact on those affected including rehoming organisations.

We expect breaches of the provisions of the Bill to be rare. The sole active track in Wales is licensed by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB), and the industry operates to professional standards. Compliance with the prohibition is likely to be high, particularly given the reputational risks associated with non-compliance.

On this basis and in our discussions with the local authority, we have expected that the cost of enforcement will be minimal and are proportionate to the limited scale of greyhound racing in Wales.

The impact on the justice system has been considered, and a Justice System Impact Identification Form was submitted to the Ministry of Justice. The Lady Chief Justice's Department has also been consulted on the anticipated impact the Bill will have on the justice system. The estimated impact on the justice system is expected to be minimal.

Engagement with the Ministry of Justice is ongoing. Once this is complete, I intend to publish the JSII, and I will reflect the updated position in the Explanatory Memorandum ahead of Stage 3.

Methodology and approach to quantifying the benefits of the change.

14. You say the “prohibition is expected to deliver a range of social, cultural, and animal welfare benefits” but you quantify only the cost-saving from a reduction in correspondence from individuals and stakeholders calling for a ban on greyhound racing. What benefits are likely to arise from the Bill and why have you not quantified them?

While only administrative savings are quantified, the Bill is expected to deliver broader social, cultural, and animal welfare benefits.

Currently, there is no available evidence to support a robust, quantified assessment of the societal benefits of improving animal welfare, and obtaining such evidence would be disproportionately costly. However, it is widely recognised that society places a positive value on animal welfare, as reflected in public support for animal welfare charities, demand for high-welfare food products, and preference for cruelty-free goods.

Greyhound racing is seen by many as an outdated practice, prohibiting greyhound racing can instil values of kindness and responsibility in young people, shaping a future where animals are treated with dignity, setting a positive example for future generations.

The [Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021-26](#) sets out our ambition for animal welfare in Wales to be recognised for its exemplary standards, its adoption and sharing of best practice, its engagement with key stakeholders, its development of effective, supportive and sustainable mechanisms for enforcement, its contribution to research, and its championing of education and responsible ownership for the benefit of our own and future generations.

A fundamental consideration of our plan is to promote education and awareness amongst everyone involved in keeping animals. This will not only help provide a good quality of life for animals in Wales, but also do much to ensure future generations of animal keepers will understand how applying best practice makes a positive difference.

There has been increasing public concern over the ethical treatment of animals, demonstrating that government policy is responsive to evolving societal values. These are difficult to monetise but are central to the policy rationale.

15. What methodology have you used to support the stated environmental benefits arising from the Bill?

Environmental benefits are not quantified but are expected to arise from reduced activity at the stadium and potential repurposing of the site.

Our assessment that informed the RIA published alongside the Bill including the assessment of environmental benefits, this considered the potential reduction in travel for greyhound trainers, the implications of increased travel distances if racing were relocated, the current and potential future use of the land on which the site is located, and comparative analysis of the repurposing of other recently closed stadiums, including any limitations encountered in those transitions.

The Bill does not propose or prescribe the future use of any track or stadia, decisions regarding their use rest with the owner and the local planning authority. However, the future of the Valley remains a consideration, noting that its use as a greyhound racing track will no longer be feasible.

The Implementation Group will offer practical advice and guidance, ensuring that the impacts of the ban are fully considered, including the welfare of greyhounds, and the effects on local communities and the local economy.

We have undertaken a [biodiversity impact assessment](#) which has been published.

16. What engagement have you had with Valley Greyhounds Limited about the future use of the stadium or land for alternative uses?

Valley is represented on the Implementation Group. While the Bill does not prescribe future use, repurposing options may be considered in collaboration with local authorities. Any planning considerations rest with the owner and local planning authority.

Relevant advice and repurposing options may be explored by the Implementation Group, on which the Valley and local authority are represented.

Post-Implementation Review

17. Your post-implementation review says the Bill will be reviewed no later than five years after it has come into force. However, the RIA notes some benefits may be long-term in nature. What factors will you use to determine whether the Bill has been successful?

While the Bill does not include a statutory requirement for post-implementation review and does not establish new systems or reporting duties that would necessitate such a provision, the Welsh Government is committed to good practice in policy evaluation. A review will be undertaken within five years of commencement, with evaluation activity beginning from 12 months after the Bill comes into force.

The review will aim to measure whether the policy objectives are being met and to identify any unintended consequences in line with the Welsh Government's principles for research and evaluation.

Success and impact will be measured through a combination of qualitative and quantitative indicators, including enforcement activities and outcomes, stakeholder feedback, welfare outcomes and the reduction in harm to greyhounds, and socio-economic impacts.

The implementation of the Bill will form part of the Welsh Government's wider programme of work on animal welfare and supports the Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021–26. As these plans are evaluated and renewed, the implementation and impact of the Bill will be considered within that broader context too, ensuring that success is measured not only in isolation but as part of a wider assessment of animal welfare regulation and outcomes further strengthening evaluation's scope and potential to deliver meaningful, long-term insights.

18. How has the cost of the post implementation review been reflected in the RIA?

The cost of the post-implementation review has not been separately quantified, as it is expected to be minimal. This reflects the limited scale of the current greyhound racing industry in Wales and the concentrated nature of the Bill's impacts. As such, the review will be proportionate and delivered within existing Welsh Government resources. Furthermore, the review will align with and contribute to the broader evaluation of ongoing animal welfare work, as set out in the Animal Welfare Plan for Wales 2021–26. As that plan is renewed and revised, the implementation of the Bill will be considered within this wider context, ensuring the Bill's evaluation contributes meaningfully to a broader understanding of animal welfare outcomes and strengthens the overall evidence base for future policy development.

Document is Restricted

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

Ein cyf/our ref: HID-PO-601-25

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

21 November 2025

Dear Delyth,

During the Committee scrutiny session on 6 November, I agreed to provide further information on certain requests. I have attached these as an annex to this letter.

I thank the Committee for their interest in this Bill and look forward to considering the Committee's report, in due course.

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

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ANNEX

Request 1: Evidence of an increase in injuries and fatalities at the Valley Greyhound Stadium following licensing by the Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB).

Data published by Greyhound Board of Great Britain (GBGB) in June 2025 provides figures for England and Wales up to and including 2024, covering all registered greyhounds racing at the 19 GBGB-licensed tracks. The 2024 figures include data from Valley for the first time, following its affiliation with GBGB in late 2023. **As GBGB does not release data at individual track level, our ability to analyse injury, fatality and retirement outcomes specifically for Valley is limited.**

Across all GBGB tracks, 3,809 track-related injuries were reported in 2024, equating to an injury rate of 1.07% per dog run, a decline from 4,238 injuries (1.16% per dog run) in 2023. The impact of these injuries can be profound and animal welfare organisations report that many injuries are life- or career-limiting, often resulting in euthanasia, early retirement, and the need for rehoming.

GBGB recorded 386 greyhound deaths in 2024, representing 6.2% of all registered racing greyhounds. Of these, 123 were track-related fatalities at GBGB-registered tracks, an increase from 109 in 2023. GBGB does not publish data on injuries or fatalities that occur during training.

GBGB reports that fatality rates have remained relatively stable overall, with the rate reportedly halving since 2020, from 0.06% of all runs to 0.03% in both 2023 and 2024. However, the data shows a slight increase in 2024, and while GBGB reports the rate as 0.03%, the actual figure is 0.035%, therefore the number of fatalities rose despite a decline in total dog runs.

The statement I made was that an increase in the number of races will lead to a higher number of injuries and fatalities, if the fatality rate remains constant or shows only minor variation.

Request 2: Chronology of decision making around the policy

The decision to implement a ban follows several years of sustained stakeholder campaigning, a 2022 petition, evidence gathering, including the consultation on animal activities, and Senedd debate.

In recognition of the significant interest from animal welfare charities campaigning for the welfare of racing greyhounds and following the recommendations set out in the [Petitions Committee's 2022 report *The Final Bend?*](#), and Government's [response](#) in February 2023, two targeted questions were included in the twelve-week public consultation on proposals.



The consultation, *Licensing of Animal Welfare Establishments, Activities and Exhibits*, was launched on 8 December 2023 and closed on 1 March 2024. These questions specifically addressed the potential licensing of greyhound owners, keepers, and trainers, as well as the consideration of a phased ban on greyhound racing.

The [Summary of responses](#) to the consultation on the *Licensing of animal welfare establishments, activities, and exhibits* was published alongside a [written statement](#) on 18 December 2024.

A Senedd short-debate was held on 12 February, which highlighted cross-party support for further action on greyhound racing.

On [18 February 2025](#), I made a statement in the Senedd setting out my intent to move towards a ban on greyhound racing as soon as practicably possible.

Following [Committee scrutiny](#), and [debate of the Draft Budget 2025-26](#), the Welsh Government published the [Final Budget 2025-26](#) on 20 February 2025 which included an outline of the budget agreement.

The Welsh Government included a proposed Bill to prohibit greyhound racing in the [29 April statement](#) for the legislative programme. I then issued further statements in [June](#) and [July](#), including details on an Implementation Group to help guide the transition towards a ban.

Request 3: Evidence of the Welsh Government's success in reducing the economic impact of previous transitions.

The Welsh Government has a strong track record of adopting a multi-agency approach to managing redundancy situations, working collaboratively with partner organisations to deliver retraining, upskilling, and funded support. This ensures that individuals affected by redundancy can access tailored advice, funding opportunities, and clear pathways into new employment.

Through coordinated efforts, the Welsh Government has achieved numerous successful outcomes by leveraging existing funding streams and mobilising support networks to provide timely training and assistance for affected workers. This partnership-driven model reflects a commitment to minimising the impact of job losses and promoting long-term economic resilience.

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There are many examples of successful outcomes following major business and industry closures in Wales, demonstrating the effectiveness of a multi-agency approach. For instance, during the closure of the Ford plant in Bridgend in September 2020, Task Forces were established in advance of the closures, jointly sponsored by the Welsh Government and UK Government. These Task Forces brought together key stakeholders to direct and oversee coordinated support for affected workforces.

In January 2023, 2 Sisters Food Group announced the closure of its poultry plant in Llangefni, Anglesey. In response, the Welsh Government worked closely with the Department for Work and Pensions, Jobcentre Plus, Ynys Môn Council, Careers Wales, and other partner agencies to ensure affected workers received comprehensive information, advice, and guidance on the support available to them.

Another example is the closure of Laura Ashley in Newtown, Powys, in spring 2020, a significant and longstanding employer in mid Wales. Despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Welsh Government and key agencies coordinated support through regular virtual meetings providing remote advice and guidance, ensuring workers had access to employment support and training opportunities.

These examples show how partnership working can help deliver timely support to people facing redundancy. Our intent is to mobilise such support mechanisms to assist eligible applicants seeking retraining, employability, and redundancy support, for those affected by the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill.

Request 4: Evidence on the effectiveness of regulation.

The decision to ban greyhound racing in Wales follows sustained stakeholder campaigning, a 2022 petition, and a public consultation on animal licensing.

Consultation responses made clear that licensing would not address the inherent risks of racing, such as injuries, fatalities, and poor post-racing outcomes, nor systemic welfare issues within the industry, despite its self-regulation.

Evidence from domestic and international reviews, including [Scotland](#), [New Zealand](#), and [Australia](#), consistently shows that racing itself creates unavoidable risks that cannot be fully mitigated through regulation. Attempts at reform in other countries have been slow, costly, and ineffective, with bans considered or implemented as the only way to eliminate harm.

In England, greyhound racing operates under a hybrid regulatory system, with most tracks licensed by GBGB and a minority overseen by local authorities under the [Welfare of Racing Greyhounds Regulations 2010](#) in England. While these Regulations introduced minimum welfare standards and improved conditions and the enforcement system was functioning as intended, Defra's post-implementation review highlighted ongoing concerns about transparency, accountability, and the narrow scope of protections, which focus mainly on improving track-side conditions such as kennel sizes and having a veterinarian in attendance, rather than addressing wider welfare issues throughout a greyhound's lifecycle. The regulations do not

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address or propose to introduce requirements to improve track safety through, for example, limitations on track banking, curvature, or lure alignment, to reduce the risk of injury or fatality during racing or trialling.

Bringing regulation under Welsh Government control may require extensive and expensive changes, particularly if Welsh regulation went further than the English regulations, or GBGB's own standards. In contrast, a ban provides a clear, enforceable solution to safeguard greyhound welfare.

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Agenda Item 3

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

Document is Restricted



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

Evidence paper on Draft Budget 2026-27 – Welsh Language Budgets

This paper provides information to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations (CCWLSIR) Committee on budget allocations relevant to the Welsh language in proposals outlined in the detailed Draft Budget 2026-27 (stage 2) published on 3 November. It also provides an update on specific areas of interest to the Committee.

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1. Commentary on Actions and detail of Budget Expenditure Line (BEL) allocations

The table below summarises the 2026-27 draft budget allocations as relevant to Welsh language policy.

Table 1 Cymraeg 2050 budget allocations 2026-27

Budgets Relating to the Welsh Language - Summary	2026-27					
	2025-26 Final Budget (Feb 2025)	Baseline Adjustments	Revised Baseline	Additional Allocations	Other Changes	Draft Budget (Oct 2025)
	£000s					
Central Services & Administration (CSA) MEG						
Fiscal resource (revenue)	41,806	78	41,884	845	80	42,809
Non-Fiscal resource (non-cash)	138	0	138	0	0	138
Resource Total - CSA MEG	41,944	78	42,022	845	80	42,947
Education MEG						
Fiscal resource (revenue)	15,190	0	15,190	700	-2,426 ¹	13,464
Resource Total - Education MEG	15,190	0	15,190	700	-2,426	13,464
Total Resource - Cymraeg 2050	57,134	78	57,212	1,545	-2,346	56,411
Central Services & Administration (CSA) MEG						
Capital	50	0	50	0	0	50
Total Capital - CSA MEG	50	0	50	0	0	50
Total - Cymraeg 2050	57,184	78	57,262	1,545	-2,346	56,461

This information is consistent with the budgets presented to the Committee last year, with budget lines split across two Main Expenditure Groups (MEGs): the Education MEG (Welsh in Education and Cymraeg 2050 (LAEG) BELs) and the Central Services and Administration (CSA) MEG (Welsh Language and Welsh Language Commissioner BELs). Whilst excluded from the *Cymraeg 2050* budgets presented above, it is recognised that other BELs within the Education MEG (including the Education Infrastructure, Teacher Development and Support and Curriculum and Assessment BELs) and BELs across other Ministerial portfolios also support Welsh language policy delivery (see 'Other information' section).

The total indicative budget for *Cymraeg 2050* as presented above stands at **£56.461m** for 2026-27, which includes fiscal resource (revenue) of £56.273m, non-fiscal resource (non-cash) of £0.138m and capital of £0.05m. Across both MEGs, this represents a decrease of £0.8m on resource (-1.4%), however this decrease is impacted by the administrative transfer of £2.4m for Adnodd within the Education MEG. Funding has been transferred from the Welsh in Education BEL to the

¹ This is not a reduction in funding but an administrative transfer of the Adnodd budget from the Welsh in Education BEL to the Curriculum and Assessment BEL of the Education MEG following the transfer of the sponsorship management role for Adnodd from 1 April 2025.

Curriculum & Assessment BEL to reflect the Curriculum and Assessment Division taking on the Adnodd partnership management role from 1 April 2025.

Excluding this transfer, there has been an increase to *Cymraeg 2050* budgets of £1.6m, a 2.8% increase when compared to the revised baseline. This includes an inflationary increase of £0.845m (2%) on revenue for the CSA MEG, and a £0.7m (4.6%) increase to the Education MEG (Cymraeg 2050 LAEG BEL) specifically in relation to recurrent funding for Welsh immersion provision.

As requested by the Committee, a detailed breakdown of 2026-27 draft budget allocations, together with 2024-25 final outturn and 2025-26 forecast outturn (as at Period 5) by MEG, Action and BEL is attached at [Annex A](#).

The revised baseline used for the 2026-27 Draft Budget uses the 2025-26 Final Budget as the starting point, adjusting for recurring funding provided to support increases to public sector pay in 2025-26 and to support with increases in employers' National Insurance Contributions from April 2025. This has resulted in baseline changes totalling £0.078m across the Welsh Language and the Welsh Language Commissioner BELs.

Welsh Language BEL

The purpose of the Welsh Language BEL (within the CSA MEG) is to support the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* in relation to Theme 2 and 3 of *Cymraeg 2050* – to increase language use and to secure the best conditions and infrastructure to deliver the strategy. The indicative resource budget for the Welsh Language BEL is **£39.334m** in 2026-27. This represents a cash increase of £0.85m (2.21%) in 2026-27 when compared to the revised baseline.

In addition to the inflationary uplift to the BEL of £0.772m (2%), £0.08m of this increase relates to a recurrent transfer from the Education MEG for the Welsh Language in Patagonia Project from 2026-27 onwards. The project places teachers in Patagonia to teach Welsh in local schools and the local community, supports a network of Patagonian Welsh tutors, creates opportunities to use the language within the community and develops links to Wales.

We need the collective support of our partners to achieve our *Cymraeg 2050* goals. This inflationary uplift builds on the £4.6m (13.4%) increase to this BEL in 2025-26, which provided support to the Welsh language sector.

The funding in this BEL support activities to deliver *Cymraeg 2050*, including funding for key stakeholders to:

- deliver Welsh language training through the National Centre for Learning Welsh (NCLW);
- create opportunities to train and study in Welsh in the tertiary sector through the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol;
- increase language use through Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Cymru and Urdd Gobaith Cymru;

- increase the use of Welsh, through grants to key partners including: the network of Mentrau Iaith and Papurau Bro (Welsh-medium community newspapers); Merched y Wawr; Cymdeithas Eisteddfodau Cymru; Cymdeithas Cyfieithwyr Cymru; and the Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs;
- Cymraeg i Blant (Cymraeg for Kids) via Mudiad Meithrin to support parents, prospective parents and other family members in using Welsh at home, transmit Welsh to their children, and to support children's linguistic development in a social and educational context;
- deliver our Welsh language technology priorities;
- national activities related to the Siarter Iaith which supports and promotes the informal use of Welsh amongst school-age children;
- support the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan; and
- undertake research, evaluation and marketing in respect of the strategy.

Welsh Language Commissioner BEL

This budget (within the CSA MEG) supports the Welsh Language Commissioner, with further detail provided in the 'Welsh Language Commissioner' section.

Welsh in Education BEL

The Welsh in Education BEL (within the Education MEG) supports delivery of Theme 1 related to Welsh-medium and Welsh language education within *Cymraeg 2050*. The indicative budget for 2026-27 is **£3.991m**, a decrease of £2.426m from the revised baseline. However, this relates to an administrative transfer within the Education MEG for Adnodd (as noted above).

The funding remaining in this BEL supports:

- funding for Mudiad Meithrin to increase Welsh-medium childcare provision as a pathway into Welsh-medium education;
- the continuation of funding for the e-sgol programme; and
- implementation of the 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs).

Cymraeg 2050 (LAEG) BEL

The Cymraeg 2050 (LAEG) BEL was established from 2024-25 as part of our new approach for pre-16 education grants with the creation of the Local Authority Education Grant (LAEG), delivering on our Programme for Government commitment to reduce the administrative burden on local authorities. This strand of the grant combines funding for the Welsh in Education Grant, Professional Learning, late immersion provision and the Siarter Iaith, and will support delivery of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025.

The budget increases by £0.7m to **£9.473m** in 2026-27, due to the allocation of additional funding for Welsh immersion units to support delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* and implementation of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025.

2. Other Information

An analysis of the impact of an “inflation only” budget on policy delivery and initiatives aimed at meeting Cymraeg 2050 targets.

The Outline Draft Budget published on 14 October sets out our approach to the 2026-27 Draft Budget which delivers stability and certainty for public services as we approach the end of the Senedd term. The Draft Budget re-states the strong foundations and significant investments made in the 2025-26 Budget which provided additional investment of £4.6m from 2025-26 to support the Welsh language, increasing departmental budgets to reflect inflation forecasts. This ensures continued support to deliver our *Cymraeg 2050* targets and implementation of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025.

Information on how spending and delivery of the Welsh language portfolio is monitored and evaluated to demonstrate value for money.

Clarity over how we use our resources effectively is central to delivering the priorities set out in *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers* and the Programme for Government. Once expenditure is planned in line with priorities, I have well-established processes in place to ensure that resources are used effectively for the purposes intended. The governance and monitoring procedures in place reflect the nature of our relationships with delivery partners.

Progress against the Cymraeg 2050 Work Programme for 2021 to 2026 is monitored annually through a process which includes the publication of an annual Action Plan at the beginning of the financial year, followed by an Annual Report at the year end to report back on the actions detailed in the Action Plan. Regular reviews to monitor expenditure and outcomes are undertaken to ensure that any available resources are reprioritised to deliver the strategy.

The Welsh Language Partnership Council plays a role in advising on progress towards the 2050 targets and the efficacy of our programmes and interventions. The Cymraeg 2050 Programme Board within the Welsh Government is tasked with assessing risks and identifying steps to mitigate them and mainstreams the strategy in each of the Government’s policy areas.

Information on allocations (and their location) in your portfolio, as well as allocations in other Ministerial portfolios that directly impact on Welsh language policy delivery and support Cymraeg 2050 targets, such as the Cymraeg 2050 (LAEG). This should include information on how the Cabinet Secretary plans to monitor the impact of spending decisions across ministerial policy areas.

Cymraeg 2050 is a cross-government effort that is mainstreamed into all Welsh Government portfolio areas. Expenditure on implementing the strategy is therefore embedded in delivery within many other ministerial portfolios, including health, housing and the early years. As noted in our response to the Committee’s request for further information last year, it is recognised that it is not possible to identify total

spending on the Welsh language across Welsh Government given the intrinsic nature of funding. Cymraeg 2050 officials stay in close contact with colleagues across Government to monitor the impact of spending decisions on *Cymraeg 2050*.

Section 1 outlines further information on allocations within my portfolio (CSA MEG) as well those within the Cabinet Secretary for Education's portfolio (Education MEG) which includes the Cymraeg 2050 (LAEG) BEL. The Cymraeg 2050 (LAEG) BEL is increasing by £0.7m in 2026-27 for immersion provision which directly supports *Cymraeg 2050* targets and implementation of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025.

Commentary on commitments in the Welsh Government's Programme for Government in relation to the Welsh language

Some of the Programme for Government commitments in relation to Welsh language, for example to create a Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan, are covered separately in this paper. An update on other Programme for Government commitments are outlined below.

- **Streamline the process for implementing Welsh Language Standards**
A review was carried out following recommendations from the Senedd's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee in 2020 to simplify the process for introducing Welsh Language Standards. These principles are now being applied as we prepare standards for Registered Social Landlords following a consultation on draft Regulations.

In 2024-25, six additional bodies and Special Health Authorities were incorporated into existing standards regulations, rather than creating new bespoke regulations. This streamlined approach benefits the bodies as well as the Welsh Language Commissioner.

The costs for the Welsh Language Commissioner of implementing these regulations will be met from the Commissioner's resource budget. The Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIAs), which will accompany the Statutory Instrument, will outline any financial implications of the regulations on the bodies subject to them.

- **Deliver a phased expansion of early years provision to include all two-year-olds, with particular emphasis on strengthening Welsh medium provision**
Expanding Welsh-medium provision in the early years as an entry point to Welsh-medium education is one of our main priorities. This is a strong example of cross-government working between the Cymraeg 2050 and Early Years divisions.

Cymraeg 2050 sets the target to expand early years provision in Welsh by 150 more nursery groups over 10 years. We fund Mudiad Meithrin (through the Welsh in Education BEL) to lead this expansion through its *Sefydlu a Symud*

(Set-up and Succeed/SaS) programme. Now in its eighth year, SaS has already opened or expanded 92 new groups with 19 other projects currently being developed. The programme is set to exceed the target set for this Senedd term of supporting the expansion of 60 Welsh-medium childcare provisions.

The growth of Welsh-medium early years provision through the SaS programme has supported the expansion of Flying Start, with 49 of the supported provisions offering Flying Start.

WG funding has enabled more Welsh-medium settings to offer early education provision in the foundation phase, as well as more Welsh-medium provision to deliver childcare to 2 year olds.

- **Legislate to strengthen and increase our Welsh language education provision**
The Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill that received Royal Assent on 7 July is central to our ambitions of *Cymraeg 2050*. The main aim of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025 is to ensure, by 2050, that all pupils are independent and confident Welsh language users, at least, by the time they reach the end of compulsory school age. This budget provides continued funding for the National Centre for Learning Welsh to deliver Welsh language training and provide opportunities for people to learn and increase their use of the Welsh language, including through the *Cymraeg Gwaith* scheme. It also supports the implementation of the Act, and the costs of establishing the *Athrofa* (the National Institute for Learning Welsh), as a new body responsible for supporting people (of all ages) to learn Welsh.
- **Expand the Pupils Immersion Programme**
Since 2021, the investment through the late immersion grant has enabled every local authority to offer late immersion provision in their area, with over 9,000 learners benefiting from late immersion programmes. We have also established a network to support immersive education, raising awareness of the various provisions, developments, and best practices across Wales. Through this budget, we are allocating an additional £0.7m into the LAEC from 2026-27 to support Welsh immersion provision.
- **Expand the role of and increase funding to the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and the National Centre for Learning Welsh**
The role of the Coleg has been expanded to cover Further Education, and work-based learning, and Welsh Ministers have designated the Coleg as a statutory advisor to Medr in relation to its duties relating to the Welsh language across the entire tertiary sector. The National Centre has also expanded its role supporting schools and now provides Learn Welsh training to the education workforce. Funding in this budget will provide continued support for both the Coleg and the National Centre for Learning Welsh in 2026-27 (Welsh Language BEL).
- **Introduce a pilot project which will incentivise young Welsh speakers to return from universities to help teach Welsh in schools**

We are funding the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to facilitate Cadw Cyswllt ('keep in touch'), a community of Welsh-speaking students studying outside Wales, to inform them about a variety of opportunities such as training, events, resources, jobs, work experience, and research opportunities (see below).

An outline of funding allocations, across portfolios, for specific commitments connected to the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act, including:

I. Funding to expand the proportion of the education workforce who can teach and work through the Welsh language;

Within the Cabinet Secretary for Education's portfolio, the Teacher Development and Support BEL provides funding to implement the 10-year Welsh in education workforce plan. The total funding available in 2026-27 is approximately £8.7m.

Approximately £3.8m will fund initiatives and incentives targeted at increasing the number of Welsh-medium teachers, including:

- continuation of the primary to secondary conversion programme;
- continuation of the capacity development grants to enable schools to develop innovative solutions to address teacher shortages;
- funding to support the viability of Welsh A Level provision in schools and FE Colleges;
- the fourth year of the teacher retention bursary; and
- funding for CYDAG to support collaboration and strategic working across Welsh-medium schools.

Professional learning is a key feature of our approach to strengthening Welsh-medium teaching capacity and supporting practitioners to develop their Welsh language skills in line with the Professional Standards for Teaching and Leadership. We are working with our partners to ensure that practitioners are identified and supported to engage with professional learning to improve the teaching of Welsh in English-medium schools and to support all schools to move along a continuum. This approach will be enhanced by working with Dysgu, the new national professional learning and leadership body.

Funding allocated to the National Centre for Learning Welsh delivers access to free Welsh language lessons to all education practitioners. The Centre is now taking a co-ordinated role in planning the delivery of Welsh language professional learning for the education workforce. Based on a full scoping exercise, working with all local authorities to understand needs at a local level, the Centre has now developed a plan for new delivery models, including school-based support, residential courses, tutor-led online courses and professional learning resources. £1.1m will be allocated from the Teacher Development and Support BEL in 2026-27 to support this work.

The Centre will be managing the intensive courses available, on a range of levels for teaching assistants and teachers, through the Sabbatical Scheme alongside the other courses being developed for the education workforce. Approximately £3.8m will be allocated within the Teacher Development and Support BEL in 2026-27 to

the Sabbatical Scheme. Much of this budget funds the supply costs related with releasing practitioners from schools to undertake the courses, with approximately £1.3m funding the Centre to deliver intensive Welsh language professional learning, and professional learning on language teaching methodology, for practitioners.

The Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol will continue to allocate £0.150m from their grant (Welsh Language BEL) in 2026-27 to develop two specific projects to continue to:

- deliver the Dysgu'r Dyfodol project to provide mentoring for undergraduate learners to support them to prepare for ITE through the medium of Welsh; and
- develop the Cadw Cyswilt network to engage with Welsh-speaking graduates studying in England and promote opportunities for them to return to Wales to prepare to teach.

A further £5.9m will be allocated to local authorities as part of the *Cymraeg 2050* strand of the LAEG to support the delivery of local authority Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) and the ambitions of the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025. This funding includes £1.4m for professional learning and £4.5m for the Welsh in Education Grant (WEG), which was re-established in 2023-24 following discussions with local authorities. With 30% match funding from local authorities, the total value of the WEG is £5.85m.

Considering the requirements of the 2025 Act, and the development of the Strategic Education Workforce Plan, we will be working closely with stakeholders to consider what further actions can be taken. We will also be working to prepare a National Framework setting out the steps Welsh Ministers will take to ensure that training, professional development and support is available for education practitioners in Wales to improve ability in Welsh.

II. Establishing the Athrofa.

The National Centre for Learning Welsh (“the Centre”) currently undertakes some of the functions that will be carried out by the Athrofa from August 2027. The Centre is funded through an annual grant from the Welsh Government (Welsh Language BEL) and was established following a competitive grant process in 2016 as a limited company under guarantee; and wholly owned by the University of Wales Trinity Saint David. The current grant arrangement for the Centre will come to an end on 31 July 2027.

Work is underway to establish the Athrofa by 1 August 2027 in accordance with the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Act 2025, with costs outlined in the published RIA when the legislation was introduced. An element of the inflationary uplift to the Welsh Language BEL will be used to support the establishment of the Athrofa.

3. Specific Areas

A breakdown of grant allocations from the Welsh Language BEL for 2026-27 for all organisations that receive grant funding to promote and support the Welsh language.

The review of the grant scheme to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language, provided insights into the grant processes currently in place in the Cymraeg 2050 Division. Consideration of the findings and recommendations of the review is ongoing. The review highlighted the need for a longer-term duration of funding. Currently, grants are allocated annually, and work has been undertaken in 2025-26 to consider extending grant allocations for up to three years.

As a result of last year's increase to the Welsh Language budget, we allocated a minimum grant uplift of 5% in 2025-26. In addition, some organisations received additional support to help increase their impact on the *Cymraeg 2050* objectives. For example, we provided a minimum grant allocation of £0.1m to the mentrau iaith to ensure they have the necessary staffing structures to support the use of the language at a community level. For 2026-27, the 2% inflationary uplift to the Welsh Language BEL will be used to reinforce the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050* objectives.

An analysis of take-up and expenditure on the Iaith Athrawon Yfory scheme since it was established, as well as other schemes to incentivise people to enter the Welsh-medium teaching profession.

The Iaith Athrawon Yfory incentive scheme provides a £5,000 grant to students who undertake an eligible secondary postgraduate initial teacher education (ITE) programme enabling them to teach through the medium of Welsh. The scheme is available to both full-time and part-time students (salaried PGCE students are not eligible for the incentive schemes). The incentive payments totalling £5,000 is made in two instalments:

- £2,500 on successful completion of an eligible PGCE and the award of QTS.
- £2,500 on successful completion of induction in Wales (in a Welsh-medium secondary school or in any maintained secondary school if teaching Welsh as a subject).

The table below provides a summary of claimants and expenditure to date (correct as of 11 September 2025).

Table 2: Iaith Athrawon Yfory incentive scheme expenditure

Academic Year	QTS Payment instalment Claimants	Induction Payment instalment Claimants	Spend to date
AY2018/19	60	45	£140,000
AY2019/20	95	80*	£435,000*
AY2020/21	130	110*	£597,500*
AY2021/22	105	85*	£470,000*
AY2022/23	75	60*	£342,500*

AY2023/24	85	40*	£307,500*
AY2024/25	80	n/a	£195,000*
Total Claimants	630	Total spend to date	£2,487,500

Source: Welsh Government grant management information

Table notes:

- Claimant numbers rounded to the nearest 5.
- Only claimants who received a QTS payment instalment are eligible for the Induction payment instalment. In addition, to be eligible for the induction payment instalment, the teacher should have completed their statutory induction period working in a Welsh-medium or bilingual setting or in teaching Welsh as a subject in an English-medium setting.
- * denotes that this figure is subject to change as the deadline for claiming the induction instalment has not passed (correct as of 11th September 2025)
- QTS Payment instalment indicates those eligible to claim the first payment and not those registered on the scheme

The Priority Subject incentive scheme provides a £15,000 grant to students who study on a postgraduate ITE programme in specific subjects (priority subjects). The priority subjects include Welsh as a subject. The scheme is available to both full-time and part-time students. The incentive payments totalling £15,000 is made in three instalments for full-time students, or four instalments for part-time students paid.

Eligible individuals can avail themselves of each of Welsh Government's incentive schemes. In this academic year (2025/26) and the next academic year 2026/27, a total amount of £25,000 is available to those that meet the requirements of all three schemes:

- Priority Subject Incentive scheme (£15,000)
- Iaith Athrawon Yfory scheme (£5,000)
- Minority Ethnic Incentive scheme (£5,000)

An evaluation of incentives as a recruitment tool is being conducted under the Evaluation of ITE Programmes in Wales, which is expected to report Spring 2026. We are also undertaking a data linking exercise with the Education Workforce Council (EWC) to ascertain the retention rates of persons who received a priority subject incentive. We have received the data set and are finalising the data linking work and expect to publish a report on the findings this autumn. Should this exercise be successful, we will explore conducting it annually and expanding to the Iaith Athrawon Yfory incentive scheme.

An update on grant allocations in support of the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan, and an assessment on spend, impact and value of specific grants such as Perthyn for initiatives that support the Welsh language in communities across Wales.

To provide details on revenue support provided by the Welsh Government to aid the work of the Commission for Welsh Speaking Communities, and on any funding allocated to implement its Phase 1 recommendations.

For 2025-26, a budget of £0.560m has been earmarked for the delivery of Perthyn. Cwmpas has been responsible for delivering Perthyn since 2022. We have earmarked funding to Cwmpas to deliver the two elements of Perthyn:

- £0.157m for a bespoke advice and support service to empower communities to develop solutions to the social, economic and linguistic challenges they are

facing. This is done by providing an early-stage advisory service to communities to develop and turn ideas and projects into new social enterprises and community led housing projects.

- £0.4m for the Perthyn grant scheme to provide vital early financial assistance to support communities turn ideas into viable projects. In October 2025, we extended the Perthyn grant scheme to an all-Wales scheme to enable all communities to develop new social enterprises and community led housing projects – where the Welsh language is central to their aims and objectives. Total grant allocations available to each group is £10,000 and to date, a total of 67 small grants have been awarded to support community led enterprises, co-operatives and/or community led housing projects. The Perthyn grant scheme will continue to prioritise support to projects within Welsh-speaking communities with a high number of second homes.

A further £0.210m is available to support other projects within the Welsh Language Communities Housing Plan, including research, an independent evaluation of the plan, the Commission for Welsh-speaking communities, the Cultural Ambassadors and the ‘Fair Change Scheme’. In 2026-27, we will continue our evaluation of the Plan and will provide revenue to support the work of the Commission for Welsh-speaking communities and implement its recommendations.

An update on revenue expenditure on Arfor 2 scheme during 2025-26 and any planned expenditure for 2026-27.

The ARFOR 2 programme was allocated funding of £11m over the two years to the end of March 2025 (£4m in 2023-24 and £7m in 2024-25) to support a small number of strategic interventions, aimed at supporting the economy and the Welsh language in the four local authority areas of Ynys Môn, Gwynedd, Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire. The programme, allocated as a grant to Gwynedd Council on behalf of the four local authorities, has been delivered via a number of contracted services, as well as some elements of direct delivery via the local authorities themselves.

For the current financial year, £0.5m has been made available to Gwynedd Council on behalf of the four local authority areas to continue with aspects of the ARFOR programme, including the funding of the programme co-ordinator, aspects of the programme concerned with young people (Llwyddo’n Lleol) and to provide a period to “pause and reflect” on the lessons learnt from the ARFOR 1 and 2 programmes, the independent evaluation and to consider learning, best practice and opportunities for mainstreaming. No funding has currently been earmarked for ARFOR beyond this timeframe. However, the above work will be key, building on the work already underway, to inform the most effective ways to mainstream and the broader way forward.

4. Welsh Language Commissioner

Allocations and commentary in respect of the budget allocation for the Welsh Language Commissioner in 2026-27, including any additional revenue or capital funding provided.

In line with the Welsh Government's approach to this draft budget, and to ensure a cross-government approach to funding of our Commissioners, we have uplifted the revenue budget for the Welsh Language Commissioner by 2% (£0.073m) in 2026-27, to provide support for the next round of public sector pay awards. We have also baselined into 2026-27 funding for public sector pay and increased employers' National Insurance Contributions in 2025-26 totalling £0.057m. This provides a total revenue budget for the Commissioner of £3.475m in 2026-27.

There have been no changes to the Commissioner's non-cash or capital budgets for next year, which remain at £0.138m and £0.050m respectively for 2026-27

Commentary on how the Commissioner's budget estimate for the financial year is reflected in the draft budget.

There is a statutory requirement on the Welsh Language Commissioner to present a Financial Estimate for the forthcoming financial year by 31 October. The Commissioner submitted a Financial Estimate for 2026-27 to Welsh Ministers on 1 October.

The Commissioner's Estimate includes a requirement of £3.558m revenue funding. This request includes an additional £0.060m for the 2026-27 salary award, based on an assumption of a 2.2% pay deal. This compares to an additional £0.073m revenue funding has been allocated in the 2026-27 draft budget.

The Commissioner has also requested an additional £0.066m to allow her to increase the work undertaken to increase the use of Welsh in workplaces, and £0.030m for programmes. Specific additional funding for these purposes has not been included in the draft budget for 2026-27. However, I am satisfied that the Commissioner has been allocated a sufficient budget to fulfil her statutory duties, and can prioritise activities within the budget.

The Commissioner's Estimate also includes a request for £0.050m capital funding, and £0.132m non-cash (depreciation). The 2026-27 draft budget allocates the Commissioner £0.050m capital funding and £0.138m non-cash (depreciation).

5. Capital Expenditure in relation to the Welsh Language

Progress on expanding capacity and opening of new Welsh-medium schools, the distribution of the Welsh Medium Capital Grant and progress to date across local authorities in Wales.

The Welsh Medium Capital Grant is funded from the Education Infrastructure BEL of the Education MEG. Its aim is to increase capacity in Welsh-medium schools, establish new Welsh-medium provision, support late immersion provision as well as support learners of all ages to improve their skills and confidence in Welsh. The grant was established in 2018 to support *Cymraeg 2050* and WESP implementation. Over £128m of Welsh-medium capital funding has been approved to date to increase Welsh-medium education provision across Wales.

There are commitments in the WESPs to open 23 new Welsh-medium schools and expand 25 that already exist. Since 2022, Band B investment and the Welsh Medium Capital Grant have supported 56 projects to increase Welsh-medium provision across Wales, including:

- 17 new schools have opened or been relocated to increase their capacity to accept more learners; and
- 39 projects to expand Welsh-medium provision have been completed which also include some childcare, ALN projects and language centres.

The next phase of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme is designed to go hand in hand with the 10-year WESPs. Careful collaboration has taken place with Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme officials to ensure that plans for the 9-year Rolling Programme reflect the requirements and targets of the 10-year WESP. Building on the successful delivery of the Welsh Medium Capital Grant since 2018, a commission was issued on 9 September 2025 to gauge local authority interest in a budget allocation of £15m per annum to support the delivery of further Welsh Medium Capital projects over a three-year period (2026-27 to 2028-29). This grant will be subject to the Cabinet Secretary for Education's approval within existing budgetary constraints. The closing date for the submission of Expressions of Interest is 12 December 2025.

Details of any other capital expenditure to support and promote the Welsh language.

Please see section 4 on the Welsh Language Commissioner. Additionally, the Welsh Government will continue to consider ways to support the Welsh language when awarding capital funding. This approach applies across government and all relevant capital funding streams, ensuring that applications are assessed not only against technical and financial criteria, but also for their potential to support broader Welsh Government priorities, including the promotion of the Welsh language. This consideration forms part of the assessment process for many capital grant schemes.

6. Summary

The 2026-27 draft budget allocation as relevant to the Welsh language is presented to the Committee for consideration.

Mark Drakeford MS

Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

7. Annex

Annex A - Budgets relating to the Welsh Language by Action and BEL for 2024-25 (outturn), 2025-26 (forecast outturn) and 2026-27 Resource

Action	BEL Description	2024-25	2025-26			2026-27						
		2024-25 Final Outturn	2025-26 Final Budget (February 2025)	2025-26 1st Supp Budget (June 2025)	Forecast Outturn (Period 5)	2025-26 Final Budget Feb 2025	Baseline changes	Revised Baseline	Transfers to/from other MEGs	Transfers Within MEG	Additional Recurrent Funding since Revised Baseline	Draft Budget Oct 2025
£000s												
Central Services & Administration MEG												
Welsh Language	Welsh Language	34,614	38,461	38,475	38,475	38,461	21	38,482	80	0	772	39,334
	Welsh Language Commissioner	3,240	3,345	3,382	3,382	3,345	57	3,402	0	0	73	3,475
	Welsh Language Commissioner - Non-Cash	125	138	138	138	138	0	138	0	0	0	138
Total Welsh Language BEL (CSA MEG)		37,979	41,944	41,995	41,995	41,944	78	42,022	80	0	845	42,947
Education MEG												
Pre-16 Education LA Support	Cymraeg 2050 (LAEG)	9,882	8,773	8,773	9,475	8,773	0	8,773	0	0	700	9,473
Total Pre-16 Education LA Support BEL (Education MEG)		9,882	8,773	8,773	9,475	8,773	0	8,773	0	0	700	9,473
Welsh in Education	Welsh in Education	7,247	6,417	3,991	3,991	6,417	0	6,417	0	-2,426	0	3,991
	Welsh in Education - Non-Cash	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Welsh in Education BEL (Education MEG)		7,251	6,417	3,991	3,991	6,417	0	6,417	0	-2,426	0	3,991
TOTAL BUDGETS RELATING TO THE WELSH LANGUAGE		55,112	57,134	54,759	55,461	57,134	78	57,212	80	-2,426	1,545	56,411

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Capital

Action	BEL Description	2024-25	2025-26			2026-27						
		2024-25 Final Outturn	2025-26 Final Budget (February 2025)	2025-26 1st Supp Budget (June 2025)	Forecast Outturn (Period 5)	2025-26 Final Budget Feb 2025	Baseline changes	Revised Baseline	Transfers to/from other MEGs	Transfers Within MEG	Additional Recurrent Funding since Revised Baseline	Draft Budget Oct 2025
£000s												
Central Services & Administration MEG												
Welsh Language	Welsh Language Commissioner	50	50	50	50	50	0	50	0	0	0	50
Total Welsh Language Commissioner BEL (CSA MEG)		50	50	50	50	50	0	50	0	0	0	50
Education MEG												
Welsh in Education	Welsh in Education	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Welsh in Education BEL (Education MEG)		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL BUDGETS RELATING TO THE WELSH LANGUAGE		55	50	50	50	50	0	50	0	0	0	50

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The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister of State (Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts)
Department for Culture, Media and Sport

17 November 2025

Senedd involvement in the appointment of the Chair of S4C

Dear Mr Murray,

Thank you for your letter dated 24 September, which was a response to my letter of 29 May 2025, and which concerned the appointment process for the Chair of S4C.

As a Committee, we recognise that broadcasting is currently a matter reserved to the UK Government, as is set out in your letter. This point notwithstanding, it is our belief that the future of S4C holds a particular relevance – and, indeed, resonance – for the people of Wales.

Indeed, we note your recognition of the fact that S4C is central to life in Wales. Whilst we welcome your statement that the UK Government is committed to ensuring the interests of all nations are reflected in the development of broadcasting policy, we also recognise that the UK Government has (rightly in our view) accepted that the Welsh Government should have a role in this non-devolved area.

This Committee's contention is that our parliament should be afforded the same opportunity. Since the UK Government has allowed for the involvement of the Welsh Government, it should surely follow that the relevant Senedd committee should be afforded the opportunity to hold a pre-appointment hearing with the preferred candidate. We consider that this would be a modest adjustment, given the importance of S4C to devolved matters (not least the Welsh language) and would reflect the maturity with which we approach such matters, as devolution develops into its third decade.

We are not only making a point here about principle: there are also precedents which we believe should be followed in this instance. Indeed, we would draw a comparison with Ofcom and the BBC within the same reserved policy area.

With regards to Ofcom, a Memorandum of Understanding exists between the UK Government, the Welsh Government, Senedd Cymru and the Office of Communications. This document commits



Ofcom to consulting the Welsh Government and Senedd on its draft Plan of Work, sets out the process for Welsh Ministers to appoint a member to the Ofcom Board, and outlines that Ofcom will attend meetings of Senedd committees where required.

There is a similar approach in place for the BBC, whereby there is a Memorandum of Understanding between the UK Government, Welsh Government and BBC. It outlines that the UK Government will consult the Welsh Government throughout the BBC Charter Review, and that the BBC will appear before Senedd committees "on the same basis as it does in the UK Parliament".

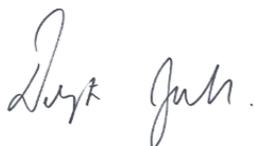
Whilst we do not consider these arrangements to be perfect, they do demonstrate that, even within the current constitutional backdrop where broadcasting remains a reserved matter, there are options available for improving the scrutiny of existing governance arrangements in public service broadcasting in Wales.

It remains the Committee's view that it is an anomaly that powers over the only public service broadcaster which operates solely in the Welsh language do not reside in the nation where that language is primarily spoken.

As such, we would greatly appreciate your reconsideration of this matter.

I am copying this letter to Geraint Evans, Chief Executive of S4C and to Jack Sargeant MS, the Welsh Government Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 4.2

MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

October 2025

INWARD VISITS	
15 Oct	Visit to Wales by High Commissioner for Malta The High Commissioner visited Wales for events in Swansea and Cardiff. During the visit the High Commissioner met with the Deputy First Minister to introduce the new Honorary Consul and to discuss growing relations between Malta and Wales.
23 Oct	Visit to Wales by Omani Government The Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman and a delegation of government officials visited Wales to explore the UK's strategies, lessons learned, and possible opportunities for collaboration. While in Wales, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning took the opportunity to welcome the delegation and to showcase opportunities in Wales, including our separate government.
OUTWARD VISITS	
02 Oct	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Planning London Meetings The Cabinet Secretary travelled to London for a meeting with the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to the UK and the Qatari Ambassador. The meetings discussed the Wales Investment Summit and opportunities in Wales for capital investment. While in London the Cabinet Secretary took the opportunity to meet with the newly appointed German Ambassador to the UK. The meeting covered economic cooperation, including Green Energy, and cooperation with Baden-Württemberg.
14 Oct	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Planning Visit to Brussels The Cabinet Secretary travelled to Brussels for the Disruptive & Emerging Technology Alliance (DETA) Ministerial Summit to raise Wales' international profile and to attend various events to promote the Wales Investment Summit.

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

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

18 November 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement to notify you of the tenth meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC), which will take place on 20 November 2025.

I will be chairing the meeting, which will take place virtually. The discussion is anticipated to focus on International Affairs, Community Cohesion, and live issues including the upcoming UK Budget, the Memorandum of Understanding on the Sewel Convention and Legislation.

This letter has been copied to the Chairs of the following Committees: Finance; Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs; Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations; Health and Social Care; and Equality and Social Justice.

I will provide an update after the meeting in line with established arrangements.

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

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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.