

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 4, Tŷ Hywel

Meeting date: 22 January 2026

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Richard Thomas

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting

09:15–09:30

Public

1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

09:30

2 Public service broadcasting in Wales: Panel 3 – Evidence session with the BBC

09:30–11:00

(Pages 1 – 43)

Tim Davie, Director General, BBC

Rhuanedd Richards, Interim Director of Nations, BBC

Garmon Rhys, Interim Director, BBC Wales

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Break

11:00–11:10



3 Public service broadcasting in Wales: Panel 4 – Evidence session with S4C

11:10–12:10

Delyth Evans, Chair, S4C

Geraint Evans, Chief Executive, S4C

4 Papers to note

12:10

4.1 Future Generations Commissioner

(Pages 44 – 57)

Attached Documents:

Copy correspondence from the Welsh Government to the Future Generations Commissioner: responding to recommendations in the Future Generations 2025 report – 21 November 2025

4.2 Wales–Ireland relations

(Pages 58 – 60)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Oireachtas Joint Committee on the Irish Language, the Gaeltacht, and the Irish–Speaking Community: requesting to meet with the Committee during a visit to Wales in February – 18 December 2025

4.3 Public Interest Journalism

(Pages 61 – 62)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Co–Chair of the National Union of Journalists Welsh Executive Council: raising concerns about journalism sustainability, funding fairness and working conditions – 12 January 2026

4.4 Welsh Government international relations

(Pages 63 – 65)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the First Minister: advising that the First Minister has signed memoranda of understanding with the governments of Catalonia and the Basque Country – 13 January 2026

4.5 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

(Page 66)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: notifying publication of the Celtic Heritage – Cornwall–Wales Collaboration Agreement: Annual Report 2025 – 14 January 2026

4.6 Data (Use and Access) Act 2025

(Page 67)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee: confirming the renewal of two new adequacy decisions for the UK to allow the free flow of personal data between the European Economic Area and the UK – 15 January 2026

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from items 6 and 9 of today's meeting

12:10

Private

6 Public service broadcasting in Wales: Consideration of evidence

12:10–12:20

Break

12:20–13:00

Public

7 Public service broadcasting in Wales: Panel 5 – Evidence session with Ofcom

13:00–14:00

(Pages 68 – 73)

Philip Henfrey, Wales Director, Ofcom

Cristina Nicolotti Squires, Group Director for Broadcast and Media, Ofcom

Attached Documents:

Written evidence: Ofcom

Break

14:00–14:05

8 Public service broadcasting in Wales: Panel 6 – Evidence session with Channel 4

14:05–14:50

Kevin Blacoe, Head of Partnerships and Skills, Channel 4

Pete Andrews, Head of Sport, Channel 4

Jo Street, Director of Commissioning Nations and Regions, and Head of Lifestyle, Channel 4

Private

9 Public service broadcasting in Wales: Consideration of evidence

14:50–15:00

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 4.1

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y
Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH/PO/546/25

Derek Walker
Future Generations Commissioner
The Office for the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Tramshed Pendyris St,
Cardiff
CF11 6BH

Derek.walker@futuregenerations.wales

3 November 2025

Dear Derek,

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your office for the hard work put into writing and promoting the Future Generations Report 2025. The report plays an important role in marking and showing the progress we have made in the first ten years of the Well-being of Future Generations Act. Your report has also outlined where further action is needed to implement and deliver on the Act. This is vitally important as we strive to maximise our contribution to achieving the 7 well-being goals.

In July I published a [Written Statement](#) providing an initial response to your report. In the document attached to this letter you will see the Welsh Government's response to each of the recommendations relevant to the Welsh Government.

Of the 46 recommendations to Welsh Government, we have responded with 5 'adopted', 9 'accept', 16 'accept in principle', 10 'considering positively for the future', 1 'reject', 5 'not applicable' and none with 'more information needed'. Across the areas covered by the 46 recommendations to the Welsh Government I am pleased that my officials are working closely with your office to take many of them forward. I look forward to seeing the progress being made on these policies in the future.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Jane.Hutt@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jane.Hutt@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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

I want to re-assure you that where we have been unable to agree to certain recommendations, this is because of a variety of issues, including not being appropriate to make new commitments before the 2026 Senedd election or before the next budget. I have provided a short explanation next to each answer outlining why the response was made.

I look forward to further discussion on this topic with you at our meeting on 3 November, and to continuing to work with your office to further deepen implementation of the Act within the Welsh Government and across Wales.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent horizontal line above the first few letters.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyfiawnder Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip



**Responses to the 46 recommendations for Welsh Government in the Future
Generations Commissioner's "Future Generations 2025" report.**

Implementation and Impact		
Recommendation	Response	Explanation
1. Welsh Government should commit to a post-legislative review of the Well-being of Future Generations Act to strengthen its impact and to prepare for updates to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in 2030. This review should include a public dialogue to engage people across Cymru in shaping the future of well-being policy	Considering positively for the future	The Equality and Social Justice Committee is currently holding an inquiry into this subject. Following the findings of this inquiry, and internal evaluation design and costings considerations, the Welsh Government will consider this requirement further.
2. Welsh Government must assess and streamline partnership structures to reduce complexity and improve coordination across Wales.	Accept in Principle	National governance of PSBs has been renewed and we plan to review streamlining the PSBs relationships with RPBs + CJC's. Increased engagement with public bodies' leaders including discussions on the Act. Reviews will determine acceptance of this recommendation.
3. Welsh Government should ensure the responsibility of implementing the Well-being of Future Generations Act remains with the Prif Weinidog / First Minister	Not applicable	The First Minister will remain responsible for the Well-being of Future Generations Act for this Senedd term. Post-election this is a political decision and will be determined by the post-election First Minister.
4. Public bodies must ensure that staff responsible for corporate areas of change understand the Well-being of Future Generations Act in a way that improves the quality and consistency of implementation through mandatory training and capacity development.	Accept in Principle	This will be included in the Welsh Government's refreshed Continuous Learning and Improvement Plan. Mandatory training requires a delicate balance between delivery pressure and making the WFGA an integrated part of people's roles to ensure meaningful engagement with learning and development.

<p>5. Public bodies must increase engagement with the public to build trust, strengthen consensus, and bridge the gap between policymaking and citizens.</p>	<p>Adopted</p>	<p>In respect of local government - Under the <i>Local Government and Elections (Wales) Act 2021</i>, councils must publish a Public Participation Strategy to promote and support public involvement in decision-making. This duty aims to ensure that local people can influence policies that affect them, helping to build trust and strengthen democratic engagement.</p>
--	----------------	--

<p style="text-align: center;">Climate and Nature</p>		
<p>Recommendation</p>	<p>Response</p>	<p>Explanation</p>
<p>6. Welsh Government should introduce a headline statutory target for nature's recovery by 2050 in primary legislation by 2026, with further targets reflecting the Global Biodiversity Framework in secondary legislation, a clear plan of action and long-term funding arrangements.</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>The Global Biodiversity Framework doesn't set one headline target but instead establishes four overarching Goals and 23 Targets. Our Bill reflects that same approach — setting out clear priority areas that together provide a comprehensive and ambitious framework for biodiversity recovery.</p>
<p>7. Using our land wisely matters more than ever. Following its next 5-year review of A Future Wales, Welsh Government should develop an integrated land and marine use framework that balances commitments to restore nature, support food production, improve climate resilience and deliver new housing and infrastructure. The framework should be accompanied by guidance and toolkits to support local decision-making.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>The Environment (Wales) Act 2016 set a framework for sustainable management of natural resources. The State of Natural Resources Report (SoNaRR) 2025 will inform environmental risks and the next Natural Resources Policy.</p>

<p>8. Building on the investment in nutrient management boards and existing coastal and river forums, Welsh Government should expand their catchment remit as trusted decisionmakers in river restoration. These partnerships should bring together a diverse range of stakeholders to co-create shared action plans, while enabling regulators such as Natural Resources Wales to work more collaboratively and drive positive, long-term change.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>We support the recommendation's intent, which aligns with our current approach. However, expanding board powers would need major legislative change, which we have previously considered. Boards already include statutory bodies, ensuring democratic accountability and legitimacy for catchment restoration efforts.</p>
<p>9. Within the next Government term, legislation is needed to give Natural Resources Wales the same regulatory powers as its English counterpart, including the authority to issue civil sanctions, such as stop orders and fines for polluting activities.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>We continue to work with NRW to assesses what support is required to ensure it continues to meet the challenges in addressing the climate, nature and pollution emergencies. This includes considering any legislation that may be required. Any legalisation within the next Government term will be a matter for the next administration.</p>
<p>10. Welsh Government should establish an expert and cross-sector team, to support public bodies in preparing investment-ready proposals that can attract private sector finance for nature recovery and net zero, ensuring alignment with sustainable investment principles.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>We are working with the Future Generations Commissioner's office to take forward this recommendation.</p>
<p>11. Welsh Revenue Authority should be tasked with ringfencing environmental fines and charges to directly fund climate and nature action.</p>	<p>Considering positively for the future</p>	<p>At the moment these funds contribute to the Welsh Consolidated Fund and therefore contribute to wider Welsh Government priorities. Any penalties collected by the WRA are not reported on separately within their statistical releases.</p>

12. From 2025, public bodies must prioritise climate resilience, net benefit for biodiversity, and pesticide reduction in how they manage their estates, including their buildings, tenant farms, parks, roadside verges and other land assets.	Accept	The Welsh Government Executive Board have agreed to include this in the refreshed post-2025 Continuous Learning and Improvement Plan (CLIP) alongside key Continuous Improvement actions from WG2025 and any uncompleted actions from the original CLIP.
13. Local renewable energy, including community and publicly owned energy has a pivotal role to play in achieving net zero. There is a need for more resourcing and support nationally. Public sector organisations should increase their collaboration with local energy projects by releasing land for joint ventures and committing to purchasing the electricity	Adopted	Welsh Government supports public/community energy projects via the Energy Service and Ynni Cymru grants. Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru will develop renewable projects that retain benefits in Wales. Wider work on a just energy transition includes working with local authorities on Local Area Energy Plans.
14. Climate resilience and adaptation must become a core public service priority. By the end of 2027, Public Services Boards should assess climate risks for their communities, updating their findings every five years as part of their well-being assessments. Public bodies must integrate these findings into their corporate and strategic planning	Adopted	The WG Net Zero Strategy Implementation Plan is embedded through the WG delivery board, including high level representatives across groups with thematic delivery workstreams including buildings and land, supply chain and fleet and infrastructure.
15. The public sector must become deforestation free by 2028, ensuring supply chains do not contribute to global deforestation, habitat loss or human rights violations, including child labour and the abuse of Indigenous Peoples' rights.	Adopted	Welsh Government uses the Sustainability Risk Assessment (SRA) tool in the procurement process to identify and manage the sustainability risks and opportunities linked to the goods or services being procured. The SRA includes global deforestation and alerts buyers to the sustainability risks.

Health and Wellbeing		
Recommendation	Response	Explanation

16. Welsh Government should commit Wales to becoming a Marmot nation, adapting the Marmot model with tailored principles aligned with the Well-being of Future Generations Act, to help reduce inequalities and improve the well-being of our population	Accept in principle	The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care announced a commitment to become a Marmot Nation at the Bevan Commission Summit on 26 March and officials are working with key delivery organisations to turn this commitment into action.
17. Welsh Government and the NHS Executive should ensure prevention is embedded at the start of all clinical pathways start, with performance measures adjusted to reflect this shift	Accept in principle	As part of the key deliverables set in its remit letter for 2025/26, NHS Wales Performance and Improvement (previously the NHS Executive) is expected to demonstrate a relentless focus on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention across its work programme.
18. Welsh Government should develop a plan to halt the rise in obesity within five years, reverse it within ten and create a Wales that supports healthy weight by default by 2035, reducing inequalities. (see our Food recommendations on page 109)	Accept in principle	Healthy Weight, Healthy Wales is our long-term strategy to tackle obesity and overweight in Wales. Reducing inequalities is at the heart of the strategy, recognising that obesity disproportionately impacts our less affluent communities.
20. Public bodies should include prevention as a core strategic objective in corporate strategies and planning	Accept	The Welsh Government Executive Board have agreed to include this in the refreshed post-2025 Continuous Learning and Improvement Plan (CLIP). A shared definition of prevention has been agreed between the Commissioner and the Welsh Government.

Culture and Welsh Language		
Recommendation	Response	Explanation

<p>22. Welsh Government should introduce a Culture Bill to the Seventh Senedd Term (2026 - 2030), to make culture a statutory requirement for public bodies. This will strengthen the role of culture in national well-being and ensure culture receives the recognition and investment it deserves.</p>	<p>Considering positively for the future</p>	<p>The Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership has stated that this should be a consideration for the next Senedd.</p>
<p>23. Welsh Government should commit to a Community Right to Buy Act to empower communities to take ownership of valued local buildings, land, and community assets, ensuring they remain at the heart of thriving communities.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Welsh Government has committed to exploring a Community Right to Buy. A Senedd bill is planned for the next term, informed by the Community Asset Commission and aligned with UK developments and the FGCs recommendations.</p>
<p>24. The Welsh Government should appoint a Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Arts and Sport</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>	<p>This is a political decision not for the Welsh Government.</p>
<p>25. All public bodies in Wales should develop a clear plan to increase the internal use of Welsh within public bodies. This will allow staff to live their working lives increasingly through the medium of Welsh, fostering a stronger bilingual culture in the workplace.</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>Increasing use of Welsh in the workplace is a priority for WG and WL Commissioner. Many public bodies are required to develop a policy on using Welsh internally and WG's strategy <i>Cymraeg. It belongs to us all</i> aims for a bilingual workplace by 2050.</p>
<p>27. All public bodies should produce an organisational volunteering strategy in partnership with employees and the voluntary sector to boost volunteering across the country</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>We worked with all sectors to develop a New Approach to Volunteering in Wales, launched at Gofod3 in July 2025. We support the recommendation for public bodies, recognising the crucial role volunteering plays in Welsh communities.</p>

Well-being Economy		
Recommendation	Response	Explanation

<p>28. Welsh Government should identify key sectors where the private sector falls short in implementing the Real Living Wage – and develop plans to implement the Real Living Wage with businesses in these sectors.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>We work with Cynnal Cymru as the Real Living Wage (RLW) accreditation partner in Wales to drive up RLW adoption and accreditation, including in sectors where RLW prevalence is relatively low.</p>
<p>29. The Welsh Government should ensure all businesses receiving Welsh Government support meet a standard set of commitments aligned to the Well-being of Future Generations Act. This should include Real Living Wage accreditation as a baseline requirement</p>	<p>Considering positively for the future</p>	<p>A sub-group of SPC is considering fair work interventions for businesses receiving Welsh Government support. A well-being toolkit has been developed and is being used to apply the Economic Contract and Economic Contract principles.</p>
<p>30. Welsh Government should set a target to double the size of the social business sector in Wales by 2035 and continue support to Social Business Wales and Social Investment Cymru to achieve this.</p>	<p>Considering positively for the future</p>	<p>Welsh Government supports 2,800+ social enterprises via Social Business Wales & Social Investment Cymru. Doubling the sector by 2035 could boost jobs, community ownership, innovation & net-zero goals.</p>
<p>31. Welsh Government should work with the wider public sector to launch a Cooperative Development Hub and support social enterprises in expanding into public and private sector supply chains.</p>	<p>Considering positively for the future</p>	<p>Welsh Government funds support for social enterprises to grow and enter supply chains. Business Wales aids procurement. Scaling support and aligning with future priorities could boost jobs, local assets, and ethical, inclusive economic growth.</p>
<p>32. Welsh Government should urgently develop an action plan by 2027 to ensure Wales has the skills to achieve a just transition to a low carbon well-being economy, and at the same time improves post-16 educational outcomes and reduces inequalities</p>	<p>Adopted</p>	<p>The 2023 Net Zero Skills Action Plan set out 7 key areas, with progress underway on net zero pathways, workforce upskilling, and updating qualifications. Work is across government and with stakeholders like Regional Skills Partnerships and Medr.</p>

33. Welsh Government should establish a commission to examine AI's impact across public services, workforce planning, and digital infrastructure, and set out a clear national direction for ethical and responsible AI deployment.	Not applicable	Welsh Government has already formed a Strategic AI Advisory Group and co-developed – with the WPC - ethical AI guidelines for public sector bodies, supporting responsible and values-driven public service transformation across Wales.
34. Welsh Government's economic mission and all four regional economic strategies of Corporate Joint Committees must fully embed the Well-being of Future Generations Act as the framework for designing economic development strategies and in implementing and measuring progress.	Accept in principle	The Wellbeing Goals are embedded in the Economic Mission and progress toward a wellbeing economy. CJsCs, as independent bodies, are also bound by the Act, but how they apply it is for them to decide.
36. Welsh Government and public bodies should ensure every community in Wales has access to a local repair and re-use hub by 2035.	Accept	Every Welsh local authority has or is developing re-use hubs in their area & WG is supporting expansion of a network of voluntary repair cafes and libraries of things across Wales.

Food		
Recommendation	Response	Explanation
37. The next Welsh Government should develop a national food resilience plan to ensure equal access to local, affordable, healthy, and sustainable diets. Food and diets should be integrated into the duties, goals, and indicators of the Well-being of Future Generations Act	Considering positively for the future	The Community Food Strategy sets WG priorities for local, healthier, sustainable food. Food Matters outlines cross-policy collaboration. Officials are open to working with the Commissioner to embed food into the Well-being of Future Generations Act.

<p>38. Welsh Government should expand Free School Meals to all children up to age 16, ensuring every child in Wales, including children from households with no recourse to public funds, have access to healthy and sustainable food at school.</p>	<p>Considering positively for the future</p>	<p>Our Programme for Government commit us to extending free school meals as far as resources allowed. We are learning valuable insight through the rollout of our universal primary offer that could inform future changes should budget become available.</p>
<p>39. Welsh Government should scale up the Nutrition Skills for Life programme across all schools in Wales, ensuring that every child leaves school food literate, with the skills and knowledge to maintain a healthy and sustainable diet</p>	<p>Considering positively for the future</p>	<p>The Curriculum for Wales supports learners to lead healthy, active lives. The mandatory Health and Well-being Area includes learning on nutrition and sustainable diets, and we work with stakeholders to ensure teaching resources are available on Hwb.</p>
<p>40. Each Local Authority should develop a local food resilience plan in collaboration with Local Food Partnerships and Public Services Boards. Welsh Government should ensure that the proposed Community Food Strategy provides long-term support to develop these plans.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>Welsh Government will fund Local Food Partnerships until March 2028, prioritising strategic links with public bodies and PSBs. We are exploring their role in future local resilience plans as part of wider strategic planning.</p>
<p>41. Welsh Government and local authorities should ensure all free school meals contain at least two portions of locally and sustainably produced seasonal vegetables. Local authorities should join the Welsh Veg in Schools programme to build resilient local horticulture supply chains.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>We recently consulted on proposed amendments to Healthy Eating in Schools Regulations and Guidance, proposing two daily vegetable portions in primary school meals, with more weekly variety. Updated regulations will be laid before the Senedd shortly.</p>

<p>42. All public bodies should reduce or eliminate the provision of food groups which can be categorised as both 1) Ultra-Processed Foods (UPF) and also 2) high in fat, salt and sugar (HFSS) from their premises, such as schools, hospitals, leisure centres and care homes. Public bodies should ban the advertising and promotion of these food groups from all publicly owned advertising and marketing spaces.</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>WG dietary advice, including on ultra processed food, is informed by SACN. We support the public sector to provide healthier food and introduce advertising restrictions, and businesses to address nutrition. We intend to lay regulations this Senedd term to help children access healthier food in school.</p>
<p>43. Welsh Government, local authorities and health boards should collaborate to introduce a Welsh fresh fruit and vegetable voucher scheme for low-income households, helping families afford nutritious food while supporting local food growers</p>	<p>Considering positively for the future</p>	<p>Healthy Start provides eligible families with prepaid cards to buy fruit & veg, milk, and infant formula at Mastercard® accepting retailers, including local markets. This supports access to fresh produce, local businesses, and reduced food miles.</p>

Budget		
Recommendation	Response	Explanation
<p>44. Welsh Government should ring-fence funding for prevention which increases over time.</p>	<p>Reject</p>	<p>Hypothecating funding reduces institutional budget autonomy. Isolating prevention funding equitably is difficult and risks undermining broader prevention efforts and responsibilities institutions must manage effectively</p>
<p>45. Welsh Government should bring forward the budget setting process and produce multi-year funding settlements</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p>We support reducing funding uncertainty but must operate within constraints. UK fiscal events and election cycles significantly affect our ability to deliver multiyear settlements, limiting flexibility and long-term planning.</p>

46. Public bodies must set their annual budgets against the national well-being indicators of Cymru (following similar models in the Republic of Ireland and the City of Strasbourg).	Not applicable	We do not mandate public bodies to align budgets directly with national indicators, as this may limit flexibility. Instead, we encourage alignment with local priorities while using the indicators as a guiding framework where appropriate.
47. Public bodies should use the agreed definition of prevention between Welsh Government and my office to map their preventative spend and invest progressively more upstream towards primary prevention.	Accept in principle	While we support the principle of prevention, mandating a single mapping approach may not reflect the diversity of public services. We continue to promote flexible, context-specific approaches to prevention across sectors.

The Future is Now		
Recommendation	Response	Explanation
48. Welsh Government should develop a vision and plan for the Welsh public sector workforce of the future, identifying the skills needed to deliver services effectively in a changing world	Accept	The Welsh Government has set out its vision for 'One Welsh Public Service'. We want to work across sectors to share expertise, streamline processes and maximise opportunities for delivering for Wales.
49. Every public body should create a long-term vision and plan for the future of each organisation, co-designed with partners and communities	Accept	The WG Executive Board have agreed to include this in the refreshed post-2025 CLIP. WG recently coproduced a collaboratively created Strategic Vision working with colleagues from across the organisation.
50. Each public body should appoint a Futures Champion in every public body to engage with the Hwb Dyfodol, embedding futures thinking across their organisation	Accept	WG is a core member of this governance structure and has dedicated resource in the Sustainable Futures Division. Currently, this resource has focussed on Hwb Dyfodol governance but will now

		incorporate the "Futures Champion" function.
--	--	--

Agenda Item 4.2



**Tithe an
Oireachtais**
**Houses of the
Oireachtas**

**Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta
agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge**

Teach Laighean

Baile Átha Cliath 2

D02 XR20

Guthán: (01) 618 3780 | (086) 418 3369

Ríomhphost: gaeilge@oireachtas.ie;
eoghan.ocruadhlaoidh@oireachtas.ie

Tagairt: E0190

18 Nollaig / Rhagfyr 2025

Ms Manon Antoniazzi,
Prif Weithredwr a Chlerc y Senedd,
Comisiwyn y Senedd,
Senedd Cymru,
Bae Caerdydd,
Caerdydd,
CF99 1SN,
Cymru

contact@senedd.wales

A Chléirigh, a chara / Annwyl Glercod y Senedd,

At its meeting on 9 December 2025 Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge agreed to send a delegation to Wales to observe and learn from the experience of the promotion of the Welsh language in Wales.

The delegation hopes to travel to Wales on Sunday, 15 February 2026 and to be in Cardiff for two days on Monday, 16 and Tuesday, 17 February 2026 and to be in Wreccsam for 1 day on Wednesday, 18 February 2026.

The Comhchoiste has formulated the attached draft-work programme for the delegation and has asked me to inquire as to its feasibility and as to whether the people and organisations listed below would be available and willing to meet with the delegation on the dates mentioned above.

Accordingly, I will be writing to each of the people and organisations mentioned in this draft work programme and exploring with them the possibility of meeting with the delegation. That said, I would be very grateful for any assistance that you or your staff may be able to provide to me in arranging meetings with the following people and organisations: -

Ms Efa Gruffudd Jones – Comisiynydd y Gymraeg / Welsh Language Commissioner.

Mr Mark Drayford – Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language.

Ms Elin Burn – Director for Culture, Heritage, Sport and Welsh Language.

Doctor Jeremy Evans – Head of Prospect 2050 for the Welsh Language, in relation to the Welsh Language Technology Plan.

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol, Senedd Cymru./ Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee, Welsh Parliament.

Gwasanaeth Iaith Gymraeg / Welsh Language Service.

Visit to Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf, CF142JL and meeting with Principal.

Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg / Parents for Welsh Medium Education.

Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg / Welsh Language Society.

Wrecsam County Council (Stephen Jones – Welsh Language Strategic Lead and Councillor Hugh Jones (Welsh Language Champion))

The Members of the Comhchoiste who will be taking part in the delegation are as follows: -

An Teachta Dála Shane Moynihan;

An Teachta Dála Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh;

An Teachta Dála Naoise Ó Cearúil;

An Teachta Dála Aengus Ó Snodaigh;

An Seanadóir Shane Curley;

As Cléireach don Chomhchoiste, I will be accompanying the delegation.

I have attached a list of the Members of Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge for your information.

I look forward to your response.

Le gach dea-ghuí / Gyda phob dymuniad da,



Eoghan Ó Cruadhlaóich
Cléireach don Chomhchoiste

**COMHALTAÍ CHOMHCHOISTE NA GAEILGE, NA GAELTACHTA AGUS
PHOBAL LABHARTHA NA GAEILGE**

Teachtaí Dála		
Folúntas faoi láthair Cathaoirleach an Choiste	 John Connolly Fianna Fáil	 Shane Moynihan Fianna Fáil
 Shónagh Ní Raghallaigh Sinn Féin	 Naoise Ó Cearúil Fianna Fáil Leas-Chathaoirleach an Choiste	 Naoise Ó Muirí Fine Gael
 Aengus Ó Snodaigh Sinn Féin	 Peadar Tóibín Aontú	 Barry Ward Fine Gael
Seanadóirí		
 Joe Conway Neamhspleách	 Shane Curley Fianna Fáil	 Seán Kyne Fine Gael
 Evanne Ní Chuilinn Fine Gael	 Nicole Ryan Sinn Féin	

Is féidir leat teagmháil a dhéanamh le Comhchoiste na Gaeilge, na Gaeltachta agus Phobal Labhartha na Gaeilge ag gaeilge@oireachtas.ie nó / agus ag eoghan.ocruadhlaioich@oireachtas.ie (Cléireach an Choiste)

Agenda Item 4.3

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for meeting me on December 1, and thank you to the Senedd staff who also attended - Richard Thomas and Robin Wilkinson.

1) We discussed the report and recommendations of the Welsh government's public interest journalism working group, Of and For Wales. The NUJ is keen for some clarity on whether the Welsh government formally accepts all, some, or none of the recommendations made in that report.

Public interest journalism remains fragile in Wales, with news deserts in areas of the country where local communities do not receive relevant information. We pointed out how high media interest in the Caerphilly by-election led to a very high turnout for a Senedd election. We also pointed out that while the BBC local democracy reporter scheme is very useful in reporting council decisions, committees without a newspaper, such as Port Talbot, do not see these reports.

You said that this was an area the committee might decide to include in its programme of work.

For information, I attach a copy of the NUJ's Senedd 2026 manifesto.

2) We also discussed the funding regime for the magazine sector in Wales and how this is administered by the Books Council of Wales, and we expressed our willingness to give evidence on this.

I gave examples of funding decisions such as the one where £100,000 was taken from Golwg 360 and instead awarded to Newsquest for its abortive attempt to step a rival Welsh language news service - Corgi. NUJ concern was to the potential damage to Golwg, but also the fact that the funding given to Newsquest was not conditional on it being paid back if the project was cancelled within a defined timeframe. In fact, Corgo lasted about four months before Newsquest pulled the plug.

I also mentioned the article I was going to write about the poor conditions and pay of the staff working in the magazine sector, but workers in this area were reluctant to speak, even under anonymity, as they were worried that their magazine might be identified and subsequently lose their funding. Workers in this sector are false freelancers, which means they do not receive holiday and sick pay. Because of the poor levels of pay it also means they have to rely on a well paid partner, or other income streams. This means that very few people without independent financial means can afford to work in the sector.

The issue is that the levels of funding awarded are based on the Neo-liberal approach that the magazine must be able to grow its income and make a return. But the reality of life in Wales is that there is very little chance of this happening. In Ireland the magazine sector is seen as a valued contributor to Irish culture and is funded at a much higher level than Wales, enabling staff to earn a decent wage.

Ironically, after I tried to write a feature article about the poor working conditions in the sector and how public money was responsible for this, there was an organised letter to the Welsh government with many signatures, including Planet magazine, which spoke about the funding regime and the poor conditions of service and pay. Planet subsequently lost its BCW funding in what your committee know from evidence given to it was in contentious circumstances.

3) I also mentioned the statement the NUJ was planning to send to Senedd members about far right attempts to bully the Welsh media into silence. This is attached.

4) Finally, I said the NUJ is organising a major one-day conference on the State of the Media in Wales in the New Year. We have just had confirmation that the conference will be hosted in Cardiff University's School of Journalism in Central Square on February 25. Plaid Cymru leader and former broadcaster Rhun ap Iorwerth has agreed to give a keynote address at the conference and we hope the Media Minister, Jack Sargent, will also be speaking.

We will be issuing invitations to attend and take part in this important discussion about public interest journalism in Wales and would be delighted if you could attend the conference, along with members of your committee and relevant Senedd staff.

I have copied this email to Huda Elmi, who is our national officer for Wales.

Regards,

David Nicholson
Co-chair NUJ Welsh Executive Council

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/FM/0010/25

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

13 January 2026

Dear Delyth,

On 7 and 8 January 2026, I signed memoranda of understanding with the respective governments of Catalonia and the Basque Country. The agreements were signed following meetings with the President of Catalonia, M. H. Salvador Illa, in Barcelona and the Basque Country's Lehendakari, Imanol Pradales, in Vitoria-Gasteiz.

In line with our agreed protocol, I am writing to inform you of the details of those agreements and how they will enhance our relationship with each region.

The relationship between Wales and Catalonia is a long-standing one and, for many years, there have been calls to renew the bilateral agreement that used to be in place. This agreement formalises our commitment to this relationship between the Welsh Government and the Catalan government.

The Wales - Catalonia Memorandum of Understanding will support collaboration across a broad range of shared priorities, including:

- Equality, gender, human rights, and community engagement
- Language and cultural promotion and exchange
- Sustainable and responsible tourism
- Innovation, with a focus on semiconductors, cyber security and artificial intelligence
- Sustainable development, including climate neutrality and renewable energy
- Education, with particular emphasis on promoting exchanges between young people.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

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

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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

There is a four-year Action Plan to support the agreement. The Action Plan prioritises social progress, including cooperation on languages, cultural exchange and joint engagement in multilateral organisations. It also emphasises innovation, with collaboration on technology, AI, cybersecurity and research - alongside joint work on compound semiconductors.

Looking ahead, it promotes sustainable development, climate neutrality, vocational education exchange and expanded trade cooperation between Catalonia and Wales.

This renewed Memorandum of Understanding provides a solid platform to strengthen cooperation in areas where Wales and Catalonia share clear, long-term ambitions, from social progress and cultural exchange to innovation and future focused policies. The Action Plan sets out concrete work on languages, culture, youth mobility, sustainability and multilateral engagement ensuring our collaboration is practical and people-centred.

Wales and Catalonia both hold real strengths in advanced technologies, including compound semiconductors, mobility technologies, artificial intelligence and cyber security. Through existing international networks and our own bilateral relationship, there is a major opportunity to align our research ecosystems, support joint projects and position our regions as European leaders in emerging technologies.

Both of our governments are committed to climate neutrality, renewable energy development and sustainable economic models. The Action Plan will deepen collaboration on green hydrogen, urban sustainability, natural resource management and skills development for the green transition.

Wales and the Basque Country have connections based on industrial heritage and longstanding links at governmental and institutional level. There are clear economic, learning, health, and cultural opportunities for Wales from joint cooperation.

By choosing Wales as the only new priority region in its Internationalisation Strategy (2018-20) the Basque Country demonstrated an appetite for a closer working relationship with Wales, an alignment of interests and evidence of the growth of our international activity and profile.

The renewed Wales - Basque Country agreement will provide a framework for collaboration across a wide range of sectors, including:

- Sustainable mobility and transport
- Renewable energy and climate change
- Technology and innovation
- The agri-food industry
- Education
- Fiscal strategy and policy, including tax administration and budget management
- Social policy
- Health
- Culture and language

Wales deeply values its longstanding relationship with the Basque Country, which is rooted in shared identity, culture and values. The new Memorandum of Understanding provides an important opportunity to consolidate this partnership and expand cooperation across a variety of areas.

As always, these formal agreements are just part of the story. Beyond formal ties, the partnership between Newport County AFC and Athletic Club Bilbao reflects a shared history of solidarity dating back to 1937, when 56 Basque children fleeing the Spanish Civil War were welcomed into Newport. This season, Newport's away kit takes on Bilbao's red and white colours as a tribute to those Basque Children of '37, with their names and symbolic Welsh Basque details woven into the design. The collaboration showcases how sport can honour shared heritage while strengthening community identity and cultural connection between Wales and the Basque Country.

I would like to thank Committee for your continued support and interest in our international relationships. Whilst we have a number of agreements now in place all are focussed on collaboration and delivery.

We have worked with the respective governments of Catalonia and the Basque Country to develop agreements with content and in a format that are agreeable for all. As we have previously set out you 'a templated approach' to these agreements is not always the most appropriate. I am pleased that we were able to develop these agreements in a way that is respectful of both governments' priorities and ways of working.

As set out in a previous letter to the Committee on 7 December 2022, we do not publish the full details of the agreements and, at the Committee's request, set up a webpage which summarises each agreement instead.

Yours sincerely,

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

Eluned Morgan



Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

14 January 2026

Dear Mike,

Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement: Celtic Heritage Agreement Annual Report

In accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement, I am writing to notify you that the Celtic Heritage – Cornwall-Wales Collaboration Agreement: Annual Report 2025 has been published on Cornwall Council's website and is available [here](#).

Cornwall Council and the Welsh Government signed the Celtic Heritage – Cornwall-Wales Collaboration Agreement on 17 July 2023. The Agreement, which runs for an initial five-year period, builds on existing partnership working between Cornwall Council and the Welsh Government by encouraging further cooperation and understanding in areas of mutual interest and for mutual benefit. Four areas were identified as providing significant opportunity to grow the relationship between Cornwall and Wales. These were:

- a) Sustainable housing provision.
- b) Achieving Net Zero.
- c) Thriving rural economies.
- d) Celebrating culture and language.

I have also copied this letter to the chairs of the following Committees: Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee; Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee; Local Government and Housing Committee; and Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee.

Eluned Morgan

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400
Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

Pack Page 66

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.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

Agenda Item 4.6


Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Andrew RT Davies MS
Chair
Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

14 January 2026

Dear Andrew,

I wrote in August last year to update the Committee that, on 22 July 2025, the European Commission announced it had launched the process to adopt two new adequacy decisions for the UK to allow the free flow of personal data between the European Economic Area and the UK.

I am pleased to update the Committee that, on 19 December 2025, the European Commission confirmed the two adequacy decisions for the UK had been renewed. The new decisions are subject to a sunset clause of six years, running until 27 December 2031. The European Commission, together with representatives of the European Data Protection Board, will also review the functioning of the adequacy decisions after a period of four years.

I trust the Committee will find this update useful.

Yours sincerely,



Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

cc.
Chair, Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations
Committee
Chair, Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

Agenda Item 7

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

Philip Henfrey
Director Wales
Email: Philip.Henfrey@ofcom.org.uk

06 January 2026

By email only
SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Annwyl Delyth

Future of public service broadcasting in Wales

Thank you for the opportunity to submit further written evidence as part of the Committee's on-going work on the future of public service broadcasting in Wales.

Our media landscape is undergoing rapid transformation. Traditional broadcasters in Wales are in a fierce battle for audience attention, while global tech giants flood the market with an ever-growing range of content. Services like YouTube and Netflix offer hyper-personalised experiences that are hugely popular with viewers and advertisers. In this environment, the Public Service Broadcasters are finding it much harder to fund the production and distribution of high-quality content, such as trusted news, to all audiences in all parts of the UK.

It is within this context that I'd like to draw the Committee's attention to developments that might be of interest to them and to update on the specific recommendations relating to Ofcom's work made in its State of Play report.

Future of broadcast television

Ofcom has a duty to review, at least every five years, whether the Public Service Broadcasters (PSBs) have collectively fulfilled their purposes and consider how public service television can be maintained and strengthened in the future.

In July 2025 we published our Review into Public Service Media (PSM) [Transmission Critical: The future of Public Service Media](#). In it we set out six outcomes that the broadcasting sector, the UK Government and Ofcom should urgently work towards to maintain and strengthen PSM. The recommendations were:

- Prominence and discoverability for PSM content on YouTube and potentially other third-party platforms;
- Stable and adequate funding to sustain a broad range of PSM content;
- Urgent clarity on the future of TV distribution;
- Ambitious partnerships amongst the PSBs;
- Investment in media literacy to support audiences; and
- Streamlined regulation that strips away any outdated unnecessary restrictions, protects audiences from harm wherever they are and to encourage growth and innovation.

We are continuing to monitor the progress of the six recommendations. For example, Ofcom is currently consulting on recommendations for how online platforms, broadcasters and other services can promote media literacy, which is a key part of the education curriculum in Wales.

In terms of the first recommendation, we have continued to meet with a wide range of stakeholders, including PSBs and platforms, to identify the opportunities and challenges for connecting audiences with PSB content on these services – in particular news and, where relevant, children’s content. As part of our work to understand how UK audiences can more easily see and find this content on the platforms they increasingly turn to, we are conducting research to better understand audience habits: how they engage with social video platforms and specifically with PSB content on them.

With regards to recommendation six, we know that much of the current legislative and regulatory framework is out of date given the rapid transformation in the sector. It was designed for a linear world, where audience choice was limited to switching channels or radio services. Although the Media Act will provide vital reforms to the regulatory system, more needs to be done so that audiences are protected wherever they are watching and listening to content, innovation and growth in the sector is supported and regulation is flexible for inevitable future market changes.

We published a call for input asking stakeholders for their views on how broadcast regulation needs to evolve in the short and longer term, focussing on licensing, advertising and a new video on demand code.

- **Licensing:** whether licence modifications are needed to support the future provision of PSM. In the longer term the licensing framework is likely to need fundamental reform so that it reflects a wholly digital environment, which would require legislative change.
- **Advertising:** the pace of change in the sector has fundamentally disrupted advertising funded models for the commercial PSBs and other broadcasters. We will look at the regulation relating to advertising to see where the current rules need updating or stripping out given the differences between linear and online services in the amount of advertising allowed and how it must be scheduled.
- **Content standards:** we are currently implementing the new Video on Demand code as required by the Media Act. Once we have put this in place, we will consider whether further changes to our rules are needed so that they apply fairly to content wherever it is watched or listened to and work alongside the Online Safety regime to keep audiences safe now and in the future.

Implementation of the Media Act

Since we last gave evidence to the Committee, the Media Act (the Act) became law in May 2024. The Act updates the regulatory framework which applies to Public Service Media (PSM) so that it can continue to support creativity and foster innovation in the interests of audiences. It brings into effect many of the recommendations made in our 2021 review of PSM, *SmallScreen: Big Debate*.

Our implementation work can be divided into two distinct themes:

- Updating existing regulation of the PSBs and commercial radio sectors to bring them in line with audience expectations and tech developments.
- Preparing for duties in new regulated environments such as voice assistants, new standards for VoD providers, and the prominence of PSB content on connected TV platforms.

Implementation of the Media Act in full is a significant exercise which we expect to complete in 2026. All our publications to date and updates on implementation progress can be found on our [website](#). Below we have set out some of the areas of work that might be of interest to the Committee:

Public Service Obligations

For the first time (from 1 Jan 2026), PSBs can now deliver their public service quotas using on-demand services as well as their main linear TV channels, and their broader public service remit obligations on a range of different services. This will include their delivery of regional production quotas. It also lifts the geographical restrictions on S4C allowing for it to be broadcast across the whole of the UK.

Listed Events

The listed events regime aims to ensure that coverage of certain major sporting or other events of national interest is widely available to audiences in the UK for free. The events on the list are designated by the Secretary of State and in some cases, Ofcom's consent is needed to show live coverage of a listed event.

The Media Act has brought about some changes to the listed events regime. Instead of being restricted to traditional broadcast channels, the updated regime will include any services which can be used to show live coverage of listed events to UK audiences – including Public Service Broadcasters' (PSBs) on-demand players, global media platforms and other internet-based streaming services. Last year, we consulted on updating the regime and we plan to issue our statement and final Code in early 2026, which we expect to take effect from mid-2026.

Prominence

The Act introduces new rules to ensure that public service content is available and easy to discover and watch on popular connected TV platforms. For the first time, certain connected TV platforms – those designated by the Secretary of State - must make sure that BBC iPlayer and any other PSB players designated by Ofcom, including S4C, along with their public service content, are available and prominent. We are due to consult on our Code of Practice and Guidance early in 2026.

Welsh language radio content

Under the Broadcasting Act 1990, Ofcom had a duty to regulate the formats of commercial radio services. A format set out the specific type of broadcast output a commercial radio station was required to deliver as a condition of its licence. Formats used to contain a description of its character of service, and more detailed requirements that included things like the genre of the music that must be played, how often a station was required to broadcast local news, how much locally-made programming a station needed to produce, and for some stations, other specific deliverables such as the language of the content.

Part Five of the Media Act removed the obligation for commercial radio stations to provide content required by the Format (other than local news), meaning that stations could choose to continue providing such content, including Welsh language content, if they so wished but did not need to. Some services have since ceased broadcasting in the Welsh language.

Part Five of the Media Act safeguarded the provision of local news and information by introducing new requirements on commercial radio services. Under the new statutory framework, we will include appropriate conditions in the stations' licences that will stipulate how and when the local news and information should be broadcast. There is also a new requirement that the news consists of, or includes, 'locally-gathered' news and this will require the journalist to be operating in the general area of the broadcast. Our consultation on how Ofcom should implement the new framework closed in October and we are planning to issue our Statement in February 2026.

Small-scale DAB offers a cost-effective opportunity for smaller and more specialist community and commercial stations to broadcast content in various areas across the UK. Our programme of work has resulted in six small-scale DAB multiplexes launching in Wales to date with another due to launch in Swansea next year.

There are also 11 analogue community radio services broadcasting in Wales, with eight of them broadcasting content in the Welsh language, and two of these services simulcasting their content on the relevant small-scale DAB multiplex.

The BBC provides Welsh language content through BBC Radio Cymru and is available across Wales on FM, DAB, digital TV and BBC Sounds. In January 2024 Ofcom approved the BBC's proposal to significantly extend BBC Radio Cymru 2's original Welsh-language hours, allowing it to become a full UK Public Service station, meaning much more music and content for Welsh speakers, from around 25 hours to 61.5 hours per week.

Update to the Committee since the publication of the State of Play report

Ofcom formally responded to the Committee's State of Play report in May 2024, but we'd like to update the Committee in relation to the report's recommendations. These include:

Recommendation 8

Ofcom should be ambitious in using its regulatory approach to drive improvements in the BBC's representation and portrayal of people in Wales. The BBC and Ofcom should report back to this Committee before the end of the Sixth Senedd.

Ofcom reviews the BBC's performance against the requirements of its Operating Licence on an annual basis in our Annual Report, which was published in November 2025, and also includes our second Periodic Review of the BBC's performance over the Charter period to date.

This year's Report contains additional information on the BBC's performance in Wales. The report draws on audience research, industry data and information from stakeholders which could provide useful information for the UK Government as it undertakes its Review of the BBC's Charter. All eight of our Annual Reports on the BBC are publicly available on Ofcom's website. Alongside the Annual Report, we have also published the findings of the second part of our [Review of Local Media in the UK](#), focusing on the BBC's impact on competition in the local news sector.

As we set out in our Public Service Media Review [Transmission Critical](#), the BBC sits at the heart of the PSM system. We set out how it should play to its strengths, while continuing to address areas where it needs to further improve, including by:

- deepening its engagement with less satisfied audiences – including those on lower incomes;
- innovating and taking risks to excite and engage, making content available where people want to watch it, such as on third party platforms; and
- building on the successes of its 'Across the UK' strategy to deliver a range of content made in and made for the diverse communities of the UK's nations and regions, while supporting their creative economies; and

- investing in media literacy to help audiences to critically engage with news and online services.

Recommendation 10

Ofcom should include a requirement in the Channel 3 licence for Wales to produce a higher proportion of network content in Wales and report back to the Committee on how it will achieve this.

We renewed the Channel 3 licence for Wales on the 1 January 2025, and it is valid for a ten-year term. The licence imposes obligations on the licence holder to produce and broadcast given amounts of specific regional content in and for Wales, which are 4 hours of news programmes and 1.5 hours of non-news programmes including 47 minutes of current affairs each week. As such it is the only other PSB, apart from the BBC, that has a requirement to produce news specifically for audiences in Wales, providing a plurality of choice for the viewer.

Under the Communications Act, Ofcom must set programming quotas for the PSBs requiring them to produce a minimum percentage of network shows outside London (M25 area.) In our latest Media Nations report, data for 2024 shows that for all the PSBs combined (outside of S4C), Wales accounted for six percent of qualifying network hours and five percent of spend outside of London.

Recommendation 12

Ofcom should continuously review UK network news coverage of devolved policy issues and report back to the Committee on how it will do this.

Ofcom regularly monitors audience consumption and attitudes to local, national, UK and international news in our Reviews of Local Media and as part of our Public Service Media.

Our 2024 a Review of Local Media in the UK looked at trends in online news on both the BBC and commercial providers and took into account the views of these and other stakeholders. We also engage regularly with the PSBs to discuss how they connect with audiences, including our research on devolved news reporting and audience satisfaction. Our News Consumption tracker includes specific questions about news consumption in the nations.

Recommendation 13

Ofcom should use its existing regulatory powers to improve coverage of devolved policy issues in network news and report back to the Committee on how it will do this.

Ofcom has a duty to review the extent to which the public service broadcasters collectively provide a comprehensive and authoritative coverage of news and current affairs both from around the world and in the different parts of the UK. There are also specific license requirements setting out the amount and scheduling of news that public service broadcasters have to provide, in addition to their duty to comply with the broadcasting code. We are a post-broadcast regulator and therefore we do not have any powers or duties in relation to the editorial choices that news programmes make. However, we do have a large research programme that allows us to monitor and evaluate the availability and consumption of a wide range of media including news. This includes research we [commissioned](#) by Professor Stephen Cushion, Cardiff University, to understand how UK network news providers reported devolved policy issues during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Recommendation 14

Ofcom should improve its analysis of media provision in Wales, including by increasing staffing levels in Wales.

Ofcom regularly analyses the markets it regulates, including tracking trends and developments into media provision. In July last year we published our flagship [Media Nations](#) report which sets out key trends in the media sector and shows how audiences are served by broadcast TV and radio as well as digital delivery including online video and audio streaming. This is an annual publication, much valued by our stakeholders, and this year again we published a specific report for Wales, alongside reports for the UK, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Other annual research Ofcom conducts around media provision include: the BBC Performance Tracker and the BBC Children's Tracker which look at attitudes towards the BBC in the context of wider media provision; the PSM Tracker which looks at audience perceptions of the PSB providers; the News Consumption Survey which tracks audiences' attitudes and cross-platform use of news providers; the Online Nation which is an annual report that looks at what people are doing online, how they are served by online content providers and platforms, and their attitudes to and experiences of using the internet; and Audio and Video on Demand (VOD) surveys which provide greater insight on online media providers. We also measure media use, attitudes and understanding among adults and children in our Adults and Children's Media Literacy trackers.

Ofcom Wales plays a vital role in Ofcom's mission to make communications work for everyone across the UK. The Ofcom Wales team represents the unique communications interests of people in Wales within Ofcom's policymaking and also ensures that Ofcom's work is understood in Wales. We do this by holding events and by keeping in touch with the views and opinions of citizens and consumers, the regulated industries, and stakeholders more generally across Wales. We also ensure the views and expertise of Ofcom's Advisory Committee for Wales – together with the views and expertise of the Main Board, Content and Communications Consumer Panel members for Wales - also feed into our work.

Where relevant, we proudly promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language in our work.

Within the Wales team, Ofcom has now established a distinct Welsh Language Unit whilst the Regulatory Affairs team in Wales has been strengthened with three members to represent Welsh interests across all the sectors Ofcom regulates. Some 25 colleagues now consider Cardiff as their main office, working across Ofcom's functions from broadcasting and spectrum to research and online safety. Ofcom's ambition is for 30% of its workforce to be based outside of London and it is on track to reach that target. There is further capacity within the office space to continue to grow the Welsh workforce to aid this target.

I hope that this response is helpful and look forward to giving evidence in person to the Committee in due course.

Yours sincerely

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

Philip Henfrey