

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

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3, Senedd

Meeting date: 11 March 2026

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Richard Thomas

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddCulture@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCulture@senedd.wales)

## Hybrid

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### Private pre-meeting

09:15–09:30

#### 1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

09:30

#### 2 Papers to note

09:30

##### 2.1 The future of rugby in Wales

(Pages 1 – 2)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Chair of the Welsh Rugby Union: Raising concerns about the future of rugby in Wales following the Committee's evidence session on 26 February – 2 March 2026

##### 2.2 Inter-institutional Relations Agreement

(Page 3)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: Providing a summary of discussions at the most recent meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee – 2 March 2026

##### 2.3 Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill

(Page 4)



Attached Documents:

Letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs: Informing the Committee that a revised Explanatory Memorandum to the Bill has been laid – 2 March 2026

## **2.4 Public service broadcasting**

(Pages 5 – 10)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the UK Government Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts: Providing the Committee's response to the consultation on the BBC Royal Charter Review and Green Paper – 4 March 2026

Letter to the Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts: Informing of the Committee's recent work on broadcasting in Wales – 4 March 2026

## **2.5 International agreements**

(Pages 11 – 14)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the First Minister: Requesting information about the Welsh Governments involvement in the negotiation for the UK–Germany Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation – 6 March 2026

Letter to the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs: Asking how the UK Government involved the Welsh Government in the negotiations for the UK–Germany Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation – 6 March 2026

## **3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 (vi) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of today's meeting**

09:30

## **4 Consideration of legacy report**

09:30–10:30

(Pages 15 – 48)

Attached Documents:

Draft Sixth Senedd legacy report

Richard Collier-Keywood, Chair

Welsh Rugby Union

Principality Stadium

Westgate Street

Cardiff

2 March 2026

## The Future of Welsh Rugby

Dear Mr Collier-Keywood,

I write as the result of our evidence session last Thursday, and would like to thank you, Alison Thorne and Geraint John for appearing before the Committee.

We recognise the significant hard work that has been undertaken over the last few years to stabilise the WRU's financial position, as well as positive developments within the culture of the WRU. We also recognise that the WRU and individual leaders are sometimes exposed to criticism that is unduly harsh, especially online.

However, it is clear to us that Welsh rugby is in a perilous state. Uncertainty surrounding the future of Welsh regions has caused considerable concern to people across our nation. No programme of change can be achieved without building a consensus for change. It is clear that the Union does not have the consensus needed to move forward with the proposal to reduce the number of regional sides from four to three. The WRU must recognise that it has lost the argument over the future of the professional game.

We were alarmed to hear you tell us that you have no Plan B, should your current proposals not progress as planned. Were this the case, it could represent a significant dereliction of duty. We urge you to find an alternative approach that continues to stabilise the finances of the Union and maintains confidence, whilst rebuilding trust with clubs and supporters.

The people of Wales feel a deep sense of ownership, pride and emotional connection to the game. That connection must be respected and nurtured. The Union must not find itself in the position of winning the vote but losing the soul of Welsh rugby.

We would welcome further clarity on the issues raised in this letter.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

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

Our ref: HID PO 113 26

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

[SeneddLJC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddLJC@senedd.wales)

2 March 2026

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to draw to your attention a [Written Ministerial Statement](#) summarising discussions at the most recent meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee ('IMSC').

Further to my letter notifying you that the original meeting scheduled for 5 February had been postponed and that I would write again once a new date had been agreed, I was unable to provide further pre-notification as the revised meeting date was agreed at short notice.

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.

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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[Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@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.



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref: MA/HIDCC/0424/26

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

2 March 2026

Dear Delyth,

## **The Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill: Revised Explanatory Memorandum**

Following the completion of the Stage 2 proceedings in respect of the Prohibition of Greyhound Racing (Wales) Bill, and in line with Standing Order 26.28, a revised Explanatory Memorandum has been laid. This takes into account the amendment made to the Bill at Stage 2, to reflect amended provisions. Updates have been made to Chapter 5 to reflect the position on powers for making subordinate legislation, and to Annex 1 to ensure the Explanatory Notes reflect the Bill as amended.

On 5 January, I wrote to set out my initial response to the Committee's recommendations in the Stage 1 report. Since the Bill's introduction, we have received additional information to support our assessments of the impacts. This information has been reflected in the Regulatory Impact Assessment within the Explanatory Memorandum.

I would like to take the opportunity to again thank the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee for its scrutiny of the Bill.

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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[Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Huw.Irranca-Davies@gov.wales)

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

The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP

Minister of State (Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts)

Department for Culture, Media and Sport

4 March 2026

Dear Minister,

### **BBC Royal Charter Review and Green Paper consultation**

We would be grateful if you would please consider the following letter as the Committee's response to the consultation on the BBC Royal Charter Review and Green Paper.

#### **Funding**

The BBC and S4C remain as vital to civic life in Wales as they ever have been. But despite the proliferation of digital video and audio services, Welsh life remains under-represented in broadcast media. Publicly funded broadcasting remains the cornerstone of provision about Wales – from news content about devolved politics to telling Welsh stories in drama, documentary and comedy. It is crucial that during the next Charter period the BBC and S4C should receive at least current funding amounts increased by CPI.

S4C needs to be guaranteed adequate funding. This should represent an increase on current levels, following significant long-term cuts to the broadcaster's funding and the increased costs of serving audiences across multiple digital platforms.

Evidence we have taken has shown that the licence fee is an increasingly contested funding mechanism. What is crucial is that the funding mechanism is universal (with exceptions for those who cannot pay). Universal provision is central to the BBC and S4C. Advertising and subscription models create incentives for broadcasters – such as maximising viewers at all costs and catering to subscribers – which are incompatible with the concept of universal provision. We therefore recommend the following:

Recommendation 1: During the next Charter period, the BBC and S4C should receive at least current funding amounts increased by CPI.

Recommendation 2: S4C needs to be guaranteed adequate funding. This should represent an increase on current levels, following significant long-term cuts to the broadcaster's funding and the increased costs of serving audiences across multiple digital platforms.

Recommendation 3: The BBC and S4C should be funded by a universal mechanism (with exceptions for those unable to pay).

### **The BBC's remit**

As outlined above, universality should remain the cornerstone of BBC and S4C provision. Addressing market failure – such as Welsh language provision and local content about Wales – is crucial to the BBC in Wales and S4C, but so is popular content that brings audiences together. For example, we have supported efforts by public service broadcasters to ensure that national sporting fixtures, such as the Six Nations Rugby Championship, remain free-to-air.

Accuracy when it comes to news and current affairs should be considered as being as important as impartiality. Too often, the BBC still broadcasts as though it were broadcasting to audiences in England alone: that is, too often we see the broadcaster explaining that a certain UK Government policy applies only in England, without having the curiosity to explore what is happening in other UK nations. Reflecting the devolved nature of the UK is not simply a case of adding “in England” to a news bulletin, but of re-thinking how political news is presented to reflect the reality of how the UK is governed. Audiences in Wales and beyond need news and current affairs to better reflect the devolved nature of the UK. The BBC has made progress in this regard, which needs to be accelerated under the next Charter period.

There remains a shortfall in the representation of Welsh life on the BBC. We note that the BBC currently spends twice as much on television content for local audiences in Scotland as it does on local content in Wales. The need to reflect the nations of the UK – in both accurate reporting of devolution and non-news content – should be foregrounded in the next Charter. We therefore recommend the following:

Recommendation 4: Universal provision should remain the cornerstone of BBC and S4C provision.

Recommendation 5: Accuracy regarding news and current affairs should be regarded as being as important as impartiality. To this end, the BBC should continue to drive improvements in its reporting of devolved policy issues.

Recommendation 6: The need to reflect the nations of the UK – in both accurate reporting of devolution and non-news content – should be foregrounded in the next Charter.

## Supporting the creative industries

The BBC's network spend in Wales has been central to developing the screen industries in Cardiff and beyond. S4C was described by its CEO, Geraint Evans, as an "economic catalyst for Wales", supporting the production sector across the nation. Both broadcasters have created employment for a skilled workforce, which has attracted further activity to the production sector.

The BBC's role as an economic catalyst in Wales should be maintained in the next Charter period. Current population-share based quotas for network spend and hours in the UK nations should be maintained.

S4C's valuable role stimulating economic activity across Wales underlines the importance of providing adequate funding for the broadcaster. We therefore recommend the following:

Recommendation 7: The BBC's role as an economic catalyst in Wales should be maintained in the next Charter period. Current population-share based quotas for network spend and hours in the UK nations should be maintained.

Recommendation 8: The valuable contribution S4C makes to stimulating economic activity across Wales should be recognised, and the broadcaster should be provided with adequate funding to sustain this.

## Institutional structures and engagement with Wales

Too often, the BBC has been subjected to political influence by the UK Government, or indeed important decisions about its funding and remit have been made contrary to the wishes of devolved governments across the UK.

Justin Lewis, who is Professor of Communication and Creative Industries at the Cardiff School of Journalism, Media and Culture, told us that:

*"What we will really need to see, and this is absolutely crucial, is a set of structures created that puts the decision making about both funding and governance of the BBC at much more of an arm's length from the Westminster Government than it currently is. Other countries across Europe do that. I think we should learn from those and follow suit, because it seems to me ridiculous that every 10 years, the BBC's existential existence is up for grabs."*

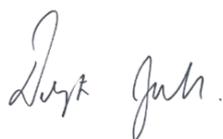
In its 2021 report, [Exploring the devolution of broadcasting](#), our predecessor Committee called for an "an independent funding commission established with distinct Welsh representation." We support this recommendation, which we believe would help insulate the BBC from political interference and better reflect the devolved nature of the UK.

We are disappointed that neither you, nor indeed a colleague was able to attend a meeting of our Committee to discuss these matters. Whilst we acknowledge that broadcasting is currently a reserved power, it has significant implications for devolved areas, and Welsh civic life. It is appropriate that the UK Government discusses these matters with the national parliament of Wales. It is crucial that engagement with the Senedd is improved as the Charter renewal process develops. We therefore recommend the following:

Recommendation 9: The UK Government should establish an independent commission to determine the funding and remits of the BBC and S4C, with distinct Welsh representation. Decisions made by such a body should seek consent from representatives of all UK nations. Welsh appointees to this Committee should be made by the Welsh Government and subject to a pre-appointment hearing of the appropriate Senedd committee.

Recommendation 10: A UK Government Minister should attend a Committee of the next Senedd to discuss the BBC Royal Charter Review.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

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

4 March 2026

Dear Minister,

### **Broadcasting in Wales**

Our Committee has recently completed a series of scrutiny sessions in which we have considered the current state of broadcasting in Wales. We were disappointed that neither you, nor indeed a colleague was able to attend one of these sessions. Whilst we acknowledge that broadcasting is currently a reserved matter, it is an area that has a significant effect on both devolved areas and Welsh civic life. We expect engagement with our successor committee to improve, not least given the importance of the BBC Charter renewal to Wales.

### **The supply of media content for Wales is inadequate**

As a Committee, we consider that the supply of media content for Wales is inadequate. We stated this conclusion in our 2024 [State of Play](#) report, and we remain of this view after our recent sessions with broadcasters, academics, and Ofcom.

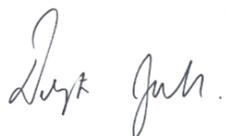
This inadequate media content diminishes Wales on a civic and democratic level, as people cannot see themselves on their screens and are less well-informed about the political structures that govern much of their lives. The Welsh Government, this Committee, and the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales have all raised concerns about the insufficiency of Welsh media content.

We remain unclear as to from where any significant improvements to the supply of media content for Wales will come. Ofcom regulation seems designed to maintain the status quo rather than driving improvements. The BBC and S4C are working within long-term cuts to their funding from the UK

Government. ITV does not appear to see increasing provision for Wales as being in the interest of its shareholders. Ultimately, responsibility for generating improvements lies with the UK Government. We call on you to drive improvements to the supply of media content for Wales, rather than managing the current state of inadequacy.

We have set our recommendations for the BBC, S4C, ITV, Channel 4 and Ofcom in the attached letters.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Eluned Morgan MS  
First Minister  
Welsh Government

6 March 2026

## UK-Germany Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation

Dear Eluned,

The Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee referred the UK-Germany Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation, laid in the UK Parliament in January, to this Committee on 17 February, given the implications for Wales' international relations and devolved areas within our remit. The UK Government's Explanatory Memorandum confirms that the Welsh Government was consulted on the Treaty, but no further detail is provided.

In light of the above, and given that Germany is identified in the Welsh Government's International Strategy as one of three priority country relationships, we agreed to request further clarification of the Welsh Government's involvement in the Treaty's negotiation and conclusion, including which Ministers and Welsh Government departments, if, any, were involved. In addition, we would be grateful if you could provide us with information on the following:

- whether the Welsh Government is content with the Treaty;
- whether the Welsh Government had the opportunity to suggest priorities and/or amendments, what these were, and confirmation of whether they were incorporated;
- more information on steps taken to implement the Treaty, or to prepare for implementation;
- how the new UK arrangements will work alongside existing Welsh Government arrangements, and whether any changes will result;

- whether the devolved governments will be represented at the UK-Germany Cultural Commission, and
- which domestic intergovernmental forums, if any, will be used to discuss UK implementation, such as Interministerial Groups (IMGs).

The Committee has also written to the UK Government for clarification of the above.

We would be grateful to receive a response by Friday 27 March.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth  
and Development Affairs  
UK Government

6 March 2026

## **UK-Germany Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation**

Dear Secretary of State,

As part of the Senedd's dedicated treaty scrutiny process, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee referred the UK-Germany Treaty on Friendship and Bilateral Cooperation, laid in the UK Parliament in January, to this Committee on 17 February. The Treaty has important implications for UK and Wales' international relations and covers devolved areas within our remit, such as culture. The UK Government's Explanatory Memorandum confirms that the Welsh Government was consulted on the Treaty, but no further detail is provided.

In light of the above, and given that Germany is identified in the Welsh Government's International Strategy as one of three priority country relationships, we agreed to request further clarification of how the UK Government involved the Welsh Government in the Treaty's negotiation and conclusion, including which Ministers and Welsh Government departments were consulted by UK Government Ministers and departments. In addition, we would be grateful if you could provide us with information on the following:

- whether the Welsh Government had the opportunity to suggest priorities and/or amendments and confirmation of whether they were incorporated by the UK Government;
- more information on steps taken to implement the Treaty, or to prepare for implementation, including in devolved areas;
- how the new UK arrangements will work alongside existing Welsh Government arrangements;

- whether the devolved governments will be represented at the UK-Germany Cultural Commission,
- confirmation of whether and how the UK Government will obtain the views of the Welsh Government to inform bilateral discussions with Germany; and
- which domestic intergovernmental forums, if any, will be used to discuss UK implementation, such as Interministerial Groups (IMGs).

The Committee has also written to the Welsh Government for clarification of the above.

Given the fast-approaching end of the Sixth Senedd, we would be grateful to receive a response by Friday 27 March.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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