

# Agenda – Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee Room 2 – Senedd**

Meeting date: 16 September 2015

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

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Committee Clerk

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## Private pre-meeting (09.00 – 09.15)

### 1 Introductions, apologies and substitutions

### 2 Legacy inquiry: Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

(09.15 – 10.30)

(Pages 1 – 57)

Ken Skates AM, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Manon Antoniazzi, Director of Tourism, Heritage & Sport, Welsh Government

Kate Clark, Director, CADW

Natasha Hale, Deputy Director of Sectors & Business, Welsh Government

Linda Tomos, Director, Museums & Library Division, Welsh Government

### 3 Papers to note

(Pages 58 – 70)

### 4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

## Break (10.30 – 10.40)



- 5 Legacy inquiry: Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism – consideration of evidence**  
(10.40 – 10.50)
- 6 Consideration of the Forward Work Programme**  
(10.50 – 11.10) (Pages 71 – 85)
- 7 Historic Environment (Wales) Bill: consideration of draft report**  
(11.10 – 12.30) (Pages 86 – 146)

Document is Restricted

Ken Skates AC / AM  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Our ref: MB/KS/5548/14

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair  
Communities Equality and Local Government  
Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

6<sup>th</sup> July 2015

*Dear Christine,*

**COMMUNITIES, EQUALITY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE REPORT –  
PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS – UPDATE ON PROGRESS 2015**

I am writing to you in your capacity as Chair of the Communities Equality and Local Government Committee, with responsibility for scrutiny of Arts and Culture matters.

During 2012/13 the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee undertook an Inquiry into Participation in the Arts. The Committee published a report of the findings of this Inquiry in January 2013. The report included 8 recommendations, all of which were accepted, in full or in principle, by the then Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage.

I recognise the importance of the issues covered in the report and I confirm my commitment to taking forward the agreed recommendations. I want to see Wales as the most active and creative nation within the UK and increasing levels of participation – the act of creating and doing rather than simply consuming and attending – in the arts is the key to achieving this. I intend working with key stakeholders, including ACW, to increase participation levels, developing interest, in the arts, which in turn will lead to increased engagement and the development of a vibrant, sustainable arts economy.

My purpose in writing to you now is to provide the Committee with an update on the progress that has been made with these recommendations.

A key recommendation in the Committee report was that an all encompassing Action Plan should be developed to assist the Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales (ACW) to focus their efforts on increasing participation levels. This Action Plan has been developed through collaboration between Welsh Government officials and colleagues from the Arts Council of Wales. A short summary of progress against each recommendation is at Annex 1, and the full Action Plan is at Annex 2.

ACW undertakes a wide range of research into the impact and effectiveness of its policies. This includes a number of different survey methods, covering varying numbers of arts organisations and different time periods, so as to get as true a picture as possible of current trends.

For this reason, the Action Plan itself may not be the best vehicle for providing a detailed statistical analysis of participation levels. However it does set out the mechanisms and processes by which progress will be measured, and provides an overview of the direction that policies relating to participation levels are taking, and a means of addressing any barriers to progress in this area.

The full Action Plan at Annex 2 provides more detail on the progress against each recommendation. Whilst being an important document in its own right, now that it has been developed, I see it primarily as a tool for ensuring that a focus remains on increasing levels of participation.

As it is only just over 2 years since publication of the Committee Report, it is arguably too early to see whether the policy initiatives have yet made a lasting difference to increasing levels of participation, but I believe they set a solid foundation for making, and measuring, further progress in this area.

There are signs though that this targeted approach to increasing participation is making a difference, with levels of participation increasing from 2012/13 to 2013/14. I touched on this during my appearance before your Committee in October last year and I have enclosed, at Annex 3, some initial ACW data on participation levels during 2013/14 (these are the latest figures currently available). I am sure you will find these statistics encouraging.

There are obvious synergies between the recommendations outlined in the Committee inquiry into Participation in the Arts and the Communities and Culture Committee Inquiry into the Accessibility of Arts and Cultural Activities in Wales. This was acknowledged within recommendation 1 of the Participation Report. We have, in the past provided annual update on progress against the recommendations of the Accessibility Inquiry although I am currently considering options on how this will be taken forward in future years.

Given that the key recommendation of the Participation Inquiry has already been achieved with the development of the attached action plan and significant progress has been made in mainstreaming the requirements to develop policies that prioritise active participation, I do not propose providing annual updates against the recommendations of this Report. However, I would assure you that increasing levels of active participation in the arts will continue to remain a key priority of the Welsh Government for many years to come.

*Yours ever,*



**Ken Skates AC / AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

**CELG COMMITTEE REPORT INTO 'PARTICIPATION IN THE ARTS'**

**Progress Summary (November 2014)**

**Recommendation 1.** *The Welsh Government should put in place a participation action plan, to sit alongside its accessibility action plan, with the purpose of increasing participation levels across Wales.*

**Recommendation 2.** *The action plan should include measures to monitor participation levels across the arts, and actions to identify inequality of provision (e.g. due to geographic, economic or social reasons).*

Both recommendations have been delivered; as outlined above, an action plan has been developed which enables us to focus attention on increasing levels of participation amongst all groups within Wales. It contains measures to allow us to monitor progress, and to focus our efforts on areas of under-performance. The Action Plan also provides a bench-mark, from which to monitor the success of policy initiatives over the coming years.

**Recommendation 3.** *In addition to accessibility and equality, the Welsh Government's annual remit letter should include an emphasis on increasing participation levels.*

The Welsh Government's wish to increase participation in the arts has been highlighted as a key theme within the 2013-14, 2014-15 and 2015-16 annual Remit Letters to ACW. Specific performance indicators have been developed, to help ensure this is achieved. These KPIs are monitored by my officials during the Quarterly Monitoring Meetings between the Welsh Government's Sponsor Team and ACW's Senior Management Team. Progress is reported in ACW's annual report and accounts, at the end of each financial year.

**Recommendation 4.** *The action plan should include measures to ensure co-ordination across government departments and joint working by partners, including local government and the voluntary sector.*

This is an option my officials are continuing to explore at every opportunity. There is a close correlation between Ministerial priorities for the arts and associated policy interests such as education, the economy, local government and communities and also wider cultural interests within my own portfolio i.e. creative industries, tourism, historic environment and museums, libraries and archives. My own 'Arts and Creativity Group' will also be taking a lead in this area by liaising with key stakeholders from across the public, private and third sectors.

**Recommendation 5.** *The Arts Council of Wales should keep under review its funding policies, to ensure that they are delivering excellence, while increasing participation levels.*

Increasing levels of access and participation remain key priorities for the Welsh Government. Despite this, I have made it clear to ACW that it must continue to ensure that all members of the public continue to have high-quality opportunities to experience the arts, and to take part in them.

**Recommendation 6.** *The Arts Council of Wales should ensure that organisations are able to access information on alternative sources of funding... This should be in the form of training, if necessary.*

Results Based Accountability has become a key component of any strategy set by government or its agents; the time has long gone when we simply provided organisations with funding and told them to get on with it. ACW recognises this, and is responding accordingly. It is working closely with its key clients to encourage them to be more business orientated, and to develop alternative revenue sources. Government, European and Private sources are all being explored, to ensure that Wales continues to develop a vibrant, sustainable arts sector, which a wide range of participatory opportunities.

**Recommendation 7.** *The Arts Council of Wales should ensure that it uses its relationships with networks to ensure that information reaches relevant organisations.*

ACW continues to work closely with its network of arts and cultural contacts to ensure that all lines of communication remain open, and that good practice is shared. ACW's links with local authorities are particularly important at present. ACW is continuing to invest in this relationship; it is trying to work more collaboratively with local authorities, to help mitigate the impact of reduced budgets. Where local authorities are having to cut arts budgets, the Welsh Government, and ACW, are actively encouraging them to consider alternative delivery models – including arm's lengths trusts, as a way to maintain these services and facilities. Similarly, ACW is also continuing to build links with the Third Sector; and is placing particular emphasis on organisations providing support and guidance to under-represented groups such as disabled people and BME communities.

**Recommendation 8.** *The Arts Council of Wales should put in place a strategy to increase levels of funding from business.*

It is vitally important that organisations continue to explore options for leveraging in funding from outside sources in the private sector. Arts & Business Cymru is currently playing the central role in this area. ACW have taken over the responsibility for monitoring both its own and the Welsh Government's core funding A&BC, and is working closely with A&BC to shape its priorities. However the impact of our funding and A&BC's performance generally is currently being assessed, prior to making any longer-term decision on how best to support this activity.

**Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee Report into Participation in the Arts :  
ACTION PLAN**

(as at 26.6.15)

Recommendation	Accept or Reject?	Action agreed / required. Lead organisation.	Deadline / Target	Comments / recent progress
<p><b>Recommendation 1.</b> The Welsh Government should put in place a participation action plan, to sit alongside its accessibility action plan, with the purpose of increasing participation levels across Wales. (Page 25)</p>	<p>Accept in principle</p>	<p><b>ACW and Welsh Government.</b> The important work being undertaken to increase participation levels must be highlighted. An action plan will be developed to provide a focus to this work, with clear objectives and outcomes, and regular monitoring, evaluation and reporting on progress.</p> <p>The plan will be owned and driven forward by ACW, with regular monitoring by Welsh Government officials, through the regular quarterly monitoring meetings.</p>	<p>Summer 2013</p>	<p>Final version of Action Plan agreed by September 2013.</p> <p>The action plan has been developed and work continues to be monitored at Quarterly Monitoring Meetings. Progress will be reported to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee annually.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 2.</b> The action plan should include measures to monitor participation levels across the arts, and actions to identify inequality of provision (e.g. due to geographic, economic or social reasons). (Page 25)</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p><b>ACW</b> to develop, agree and initiate a formal process for the regular reporting of participation levels to the Welsh Government. This should include specific measures, targets and actions to meet the requirements of this recommendation.</p>	<p>Summer 2013</p>	<p>ACW's current monitoring includes: 1 The RFO survey, reporting twice a year on attendance and participation levels by its revenue funded organisations 2 The Adult and Children's Omnibus surveys, undertaken annually 3 Quarterly monitoring of Lottery funded projects, including</p>



**Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee Report into Participation in the Arts :  
ACTION PLAN**

(as at 26.6.15)

				<p>participatory activity. 4 Wales Arts Review – a large scale survey of participation and attendance in the arts across Wales, undertaken every five years.</p> <p>ACW has developed a new system for monitoring project funded activity that can also report on geographic, economic and social breakdown.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 3.</b> In addition to accessibility and equality, the Welsh Government's annual remit letter should include an emphasis on increasing participation levels. (Page 25)</p>	Accept	<p><b>Welsh Government.</b> The annual Remit Letter to the Arts Council of Wales will continue to emphasise the importance of widening access and increasing participation levels in the arts, as it has done in previous years.</p>	March 2013	<p>As in 2013-14, the 2014/15 Remit Letter highlights the need to continue with efforts to increase participation levels, despite the difficulties caused by the current financial climate and pressures on funding.</p> <p>Increasing participation in the arts remains a standing requirement in ACW's funding agreement with its RFOs.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4.</b> The action plan should include measures to ensure co-ordination across government departments and joint working by partners, including local government and the voluntary</p>	Accept	<p><b>ACW and Welsh Government</b> to develop an action plan that incorporates the views of key stakeholders and Government Departments.</p>	Summer 2013	<p>Creative Economy (Arts) officials have undertaken an exercise in collaboration with colleagues in other Departments, to identify existing and new initiatives that do or could support increased</p>

## Annex 2

### Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee Report into Participation in the Arts : ACTION PLAN

<p><u>(as at 26.6.15)</u> sector. (Page 26)</p>				<p>participation in the arts.</p> <p>Work continues within Cadw, through initiatives such as the Artists in Residence scheme. Similarly Amgueddfa Cymru/ National Museum runs participatory activities during school holidays to encourage young people to develop an interest in arts and culture.</p> <p>ACW has commissioned Voluntary Arts Wales to undertake a programme aimed at increasing and sustaining voluntary arts activity in areas of Wales where there is low take up.</p> <p>ACW is also delivering its 'Momentum' programme in partnership with the Welsh Government Communities First team; this is aimed at engaging young people - who are NEET or at risk of this - with the Arts.</p> <p>ACW staff currently review and report to sponsor division and to ACW Council on a quarterly basis, and undertake a full review at the year end.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 5.</b> The Arts Council of Wales should keep under review its funding policies, to ensure that they are delivering excellence, while increasing participation levels. (Page 34)</p>	Accept	<p>ACW to undertake regular monitoring and evaluation of its policies to ensure that increasing participation remains a priority.</p>	<p>March 2014 and then annually.</p>	

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee Report into Participation in the Arts :  
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(as at 26.6.15)

<p><b>Recommendation 6.</b> The Arts Council of Wales should ensure that organisations are able to access information on alternative sources of funding. This should be in the form of training, if necessary. (Page 34)</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>ACW is developing a range of initiatives to help organisations with their fundraising. Through its Information Service, ACW will provide information about funding sources and opportunities, and put in place ways of alerting organisations to those opportunities. Council will also explore the feasibility of arranging funding surgeries or 'market-place' events for arts organisations to meet other trusts and foundations.</p> <p>ACW believes that organisations themselves are potentially the most effective fundraisers, as they are the best advocates of their own work. So ACW will look at ways of building capability within the sector by developing new training initiatives.</p>	<p>March 2014</p>	<p>Information about trusts and foundations is included in ACW's funding guidelines, available on its website. ACW runs funding surgeries across Wales providing information, help and support on accessing its Lottery funding.</p> <p>ACW is exploring the possibility of developing these funding surgeries to include more information about other sources of funding.</p> <p>ACW's RFO development Plan for 2014-15 includes capacity building and fundraising.</p> <p>ACW recently provided information to Arts Branch on examples of successful bids to Trusts and Foundations made by a number of their RFOs.</p> <p>Artworks Cymru, funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, has been a very successful project, which involves developing the skills of professionals working in participatory arts settings. ACW and Paul Hamlyn are supporting an extension of the project.</p>
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## Annex 2

### Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee Report into Participation in the Arts : ACTION PLAN

*(as at 26.6.15)*

<p><b>Recommendation 7.</b> The Arts Council of Wales should ensure that it uses its relationships with networks to ensure that information reaches relevant organisations. (Page 35)</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>ACW currently works with a variety of networks that includes Voluntary Arts Wales, VAGW (visual arts and galleries), Disability Arts Cymru, Age Concern and Wales Association for Performing Arts. ACW should build on these links and make every effort to develop new networks with bodies representing under represented groups.</p>	<p>March 2013</p>	<p>ACW is also supporting an older people's participatory project, in a funding partnership with the Baring Foundation.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 8.</b> The Arts Council of Wales should put in place a strategy to increase levels of funding from business. (Page 35)</p>	<p>Accept</p>	<p>ACW continues to fund Disability Arts Cymru as one of its RFOs. ACW also continues to have a strong working relationship with Diverse Cymru and Age Concern.</p> <p>The 'Creative Learning through the Arts Action Plan', which arose from the Smith Review into Arts In Education, will make a major contribution towards this objective. The Plan involves a 5-year £20 million programme, with roll-out in schools from September 2015.</p>	<p>ACW worked with the Welsh Government to secure the future of Arts and Business Cymru for 2014/15 -16. For next year A&amp;BC has been invited to develop a business plan involving less</p>	<p>ACW has entered into a service agreement with VAW to deliver and expand "Running Your Group", a web based resource for voluntary arts organisations.</p>

Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee Report into Participation in the Arts :  
**ACTION PLAN**

(as at 26.6.15)

		<p>successfully developed relationships with most of the leading companies in Wales. ACW should manage its relationship with Arts &amp; Business Cymru in order to fully utilise the knowledge and expertise that A&amp;BC possesses.</p> <p>This will need to be achieved despite the uncertainty over the future funding of A&amp;BC and similar organisations caused by the current financial climate. ACW should look to identify and build new relationships with other key stakeholders in this field to maximise the opportunities for attracting business support for the arts.</p>	<p>reliance on subsidy. Much rests on this, as it is the lead body for business sponsorship in the arts.</p> <p>ACW has held various seminars involving eminent speakers under its Developing Resilience Programme, e.g. on leadership and philanthropy through technology.</p> <p>ACW has given the DONATE platform a grant to adapt its online technology for Wales, NB to enable the use of the Welsh language.</p> <p>ACW has provided a Digital R&amp;D grant to an applicant looking to develop the technology for an online ticket levy for philanthropic purposes.</p> <p>In its 'Sgwrs' events, ACW has run workshops on Crowd sourcing for audience development. ACW is also working with commercial and subsidised galleries to develop its 'Collectorplan' scheme, to increase sales of art works.</p>
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## Participation in the Arts

The following statistics are taken from the ACW's annual survey of its Revenue Funded organisations (2013-14):

### Key Findings

- In total 68,038 sessions were run in 2013-14, generating attendances of 1,069,017. This is an increase from the previous year of 4.5% for sessions run, and 8.6% for attendances.
- Participation at activities specifically targeted at children and young people experienced an increase in 2013-14, with sessions increasing from 43,971 to 44,966 (+2.3%). These participatory sessions resulted in 668,986 attendances, an increase of 9.3% from the previous year
- General participatory activities also increased from the previous year, with sessions increasing by 9.1% and attendances to these sessions by 7.3%. During 2013-14, 23,072 sessions were run and 400,031 attendances were made to these sessions.
- Of all the participatory activity 6.1% (4,182) of sessions were targeted at those in the protected characteristics groups and 6.8% (73,161) of all attendances were made to these activities.

Participation	2012/13		2013/14		% Change	
	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory Sessions	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory Sessions	Sessions	Attendances at Participatory Sessions
Children & Young People	43,971	612,093	44,966	668,986	2.3	9.3
General	21,143	372,642	23,072	400,031	9.1	7.3
<b>Total Participation</b>	<b>65,114</b>	<b>984,735</b>	<b>68,038</b>	<b>1,069,017</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>8.6</b>

Source: ACW survey of Revenue Funded Organisations

Base: 72 organisations

The following statistics are taken from the Adult Omnibus Survey\* 2013:

- In 2013, 34.9% of adults in Wales took part in arts activities once a year or more. This is a decrease of 5.3 percentage points from the previous year when 40.2% took part in arts activities.<sup>1</sup>

### **Socio Economic Groups**

- In 2013, ABC1s were more likely to participate in the arts than C2DEs (43.2% and 28.8%). Whilst both groups had shown slight decreases in at least yearly participation compared with 2012, the gap between higher social grade groups and lower also narrowed by three percentage points from 2013 to 2012. In 2012 49.5% of ABC1s took part compared to 32.3% of C2DEs, a gap of 17.2 percentage points.

### **Gender**

- Women (37.8%) remain more likely than men (31.9) to have participated in the arts on an at least yearly basis.

### **Age**

- Participation rates among all age groups has decreased since 2012, with the exception of the 65+ age group which remained the same (34.4%).
- The largest change was found among the 35-44 year old age group (-11 percentage points) meaning at 30.8%, this group record the lowest level of participation.
- The 16-24 year old age group continue to be the age group with the highest levels of participation in both years 39.4% in 2013 and 2012 45.6%

### **Region**

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<sup>1</sup> Participation in at least one of the following seven arts activities; music, drama, dance, film, photography or video making, visual arts and crafts, creative writing, digital arts.

\*The Arts Council of Wales has conducted an annual attendance and participation Omnibus research survey every year since 1993. The basis of the survey is to collect data on attendance to arts events and participation in artistic activities and this information is collected via a series of questions asked on the Beaufort Research Ltd Wales. The Omnibus is a representative survey of 1,000 adults and examines demographic and regional variations in attendance and participation. The sample was designed to be representative of the adult population resident in Wales aged 16 years and over. Within each sampling point, interlocking quota controls on age, gender and social grade were used for the selection of respondents. The quotas were set to reflect the demographic profile of residents in Wales and no more than one person per household was interviewed. The resulting data was also weighted to fine tune any imbalances in the sample, to ensure that it was fully representative of the Welsh population.

- On the basis of the ACW regions, those living in South Central Wales were found to have the highest levels of participation in the arts, with just over two fifths (40.8%) of the population in this area doing so once a year or more often. This was also the case in 2012 when 48.8% took part in activities in this region.
- In contrast, this proportion dropped to less than a fifth (18.1%) among those in South East Wales, the highest decrease (thirteen percentage points) from 2012.

### **Welsh Language**

- In terms of Welsh language and participation in the arts, in 2013 Welsh speakers, at 44.2%, remain more likely than non-Welsh speakers (31.4%) to take part in artistic activities, with a similar pattern in 2012.
- The artform with the lowest levels of participation continues to be Drama, only 3.8% taking part in this in 2013.

The following statistics are taken from the Children's Omnibus Survey 2013:

- Over 8 in 10 (84.3%) of children and young people in Wales participated in any of the 7 artistic activities<sup>2</sup> once a year or more often in 2013. This was an increase of 4.1 percentage points from the previous year and represents the highest levels of participation since the survey began in 2007.

### **Socio Economic Groups**

- 2013 shows an increase in participation levels of children and young people in the C2DE group from 77.1% in 2012 to 82.1%, meaning the gap between the two socio economic groups has decreased from 6.2 percentage points in 2012 to 4.4 in 2013. Those in the ABC1 group have also experienced an increase in their participation levels from 83.3% to 86.5%.

### **Age**

- Older children (16-18 year olds) remain less likely to participate in an artistic activity in 2013 than younger children, 60.4% doing so once a year or more often in comparison to 93.8% of 7-10 year olds.

### **Gender**

- Although girls (85.6%) were more likely than boys (83.2%) to participate in the arts in 2013, it is evident that gender has less of an impact on participation rates than with attendance rates where there is a bigger gap between the two groups.

### **Region**

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<sup>2</sup> Participation in at least one of the following 7 activities: music activities, drama or theatrical activity, dance activity, film and video making and photography, visual arts and crafts, digital arts, creative writing.



- Participation levels amongst children were highest in the South Central region at 94.0%. However, it was levels in the North Wales region which saw the biggest increase of 10 percentage points from 2012 up to 88.6% in 2013 participating once a year or more often.

### **Welsh language**

- While participation rates continue to be higher among those who speak Welsh, 88.4%, compared to those who do not speak Welsh, 81.7%, there has been an increase in participation rates among the latter group of 6.1 percentage points to 81.7% in 2013.

Ken Skates AC / AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref  
Ein cyf/Our ref

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair  
Communities, Equalities and  
Local Government Committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

28<sup>th</sup> July 2015

*Dear Christine*

Thank you for your letter of 15 June requesting updates on progress against Committee recommendations in my portfolio.

The attached annexes provide updates on each of the recommendations that were accepted or accepted in principle by the Welsh Government:

- Public libraries in Wales – Annex 1
- Participation levels in sport – Annex 2
- Welsh Government's historic environment policy – Annex 3
- Participation in the Arts in Wales – Annex 4
- Welsh Premier League – Annex 5
- The future outlook for the media in Wales – Annex 6

*Yours ever,  
Ken*

**Ken Skates AC / AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



## Public libraries in Wales

**Recommendation 1 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister produces and publishes an annual report on the state of public libraries in Wales.

**Update:** An annual report, which will also include academic libraries, will be produced by 30 April 2016 covering the period April 2015-March 2016.

**Recommendation 2 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister makes arrangements for the central publication of disaggregated data showing the use of public libraries by demographic groups.

**Update:** We are seeking to include use of public libraries within the Wales National Survey for 2016-17 which would then provide information on use by geographic area.

**Recommendation 3 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister works with partners to develop a contemporary definition of “comprehensive and efficient” library services for local authorities to deliver under the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. Such a definition should include the provision of internet access which, we believe, should remain free of charge.

**Update:** The provision of free Internet access is included in the Welsh Public Libraries Standards 2014-17 as one of the core entitlements. We are looking at the longer term legislative changes that would be required to progress a new Libraries Act for Wales.

**Recommendation 4 (Accepted in Principle):** We recommend that the Minister considers developing a voluntary accreditation scheme for individual libraries in Wales.

**Update:** This recommendation was accepted in principle. However, the WPLS Framework will be the mechanism to progress this action.

Three recommendations (4, 8 and 9) of the *Expert Review* have been completed which progress this issue. A piece of research has been published which reviewed the current situation of community (volunteer) managed libraries in Wales. This was followed by publication of *Guidance on Community Managed Libraries and the Statutory Provision of Public Library Services in Wales* in May 2015, which was agreed by the Welsh Local Government Association and the Welsh Government. The *Guidance* seeks to ensure that such libraries should be striving to achieve the 18 core entitlements as per the Welsh Public Library Standards in order to deliver a quality service.

**Recommendation 5 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister continues to work with local authorities and their partners to identify and promote further opportunities for collaboration and co-location arrangements in the delivery of library services.

**Update:** Applications for the 2015-16 capital funding from the Welsh Government Community Learning Libraries Programme were required to support co-located services. This stipulation is likely to remain in place for future funding rounds.

**Recommendation 6 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister ensures that the necessary ongoing support and guidance is available in order to increase the long-term sustainability of community managed libraries.

**Update:** Research has been published which reviewed the current situation of community (volunteer) managed libraries in Wales (*Independent Trust and Community Libraries in Wales*) report. This was followed by publication of *Guidance on Community Managed Libraries and the Statutory Provision of Public Library Services in Wales* in May 2015.

In addition, a toolkit on community managed libraries has been produced by Conwy CBC in partnership with the Welsh Government and has been made available to public libraries in Wales. The toolkit represents best practice in how to develop and sustain community managed libraries.

**Recommendation 7 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister ensures adequate support and guidance continues to be available to local authorities to identify and pursue all available funding opportunities.

**Update:** A document with useful links and information has been produced and made available to library staff in Wales.

**Recommendation 8 (Accepted):** We recommend that, whilst core library services should remain free of charge, the Minister should explore with local authorities all other available options for libraries to raise revenue.

**Update:** All library services in Wales are encouraged to develop partnerships which support the cost of core statutory services, including the sharing of buildings and staff between different community services.

**Recommendation 9 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister works with local authorities and partners to promote better the wide range of services provided by public libraries.

**Update:** *Libraries Inspire*, the current library strategy for Wales, includes 'Attracting the audience' as a strand of work. This work strand is led by a team in Wrexham CBC and delivers support to all Welsh library services. Activities include co-ordinating national events, promoting initiatives, social media engagement, press releases, infographics, staff development, co-ordinating all-Wales promotion of services, and contributing towards the [Welshlibraries.org](http://Welshlibraries.org) website.

**Recommendation 10 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister continues to pursue the case for additional funding from the UK Government in recognition of the increasing responsibilities for library staff in Wales in supporting the delivery of digital-by-default welfare reforms.

**Update:** Ongoing discussions continue to support libraries in delivering services to address digital inclusion.

## Participation levels in sport

**Recommendation 1 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister publishes the joint delivery plan produced by Sport Wales and Public Health Wales, along with a timetable for its implementation. This should include agreed outcomes by which the success of the plan will be measured.

**Update:** We are addressing physical activity specifically through the Ministerial led Physical Activity Executive Group (PAEG) which is seeking to improve levels of activity in Wales through a co-ordinated, cross Government approach; working with partner organisations such as Public Health Wales and Sports Wales. The Group are currently developing a pan Wales physical activity plan, building on the work of Creating an Active Wales, which gained full Cabinet support in December 2014.

A Physical Activity and Health Programme Director, jointly funded by Welsh Government, Sport Wales and Public Health Wales has recently been appointed by the group to support the work of PAEG and specifically the development and implementation of the action plan. The role will also require the individual to develop and sustain effective working relationships with all key partners and stakeholders.

Sport Wales and NHS Confederation have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which demonstrates a commitment from both sectors to come together to promote healthier living and improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Wales.

The MOU - which will initially cover the next three years - sets out six areas of cooperation which include:

- work together to support the people of Wales to enjoy more active, more equal and healthier lives
- work to encourage people to look after their own health and thereby take care of the health of future generations
- work to foster a co-productive relationship with the people of Wales
- work together to support the drive for a mass shift in public thinking about their health
- exchange information of mutual interest
- seek to develop joint areas of work that promote 'sport for all' and encourage participation across the life span.

**Recommendation 2 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister undertakes a review of all existing sources of data that measure participation levels in sport, including the methodology used in Sport Wales surveys. The Minister's review should focus on addressing the concerns around the lack of data on how deprivation, demographics, protected characteristics and cultural barriers impact on participation levels. Any improvements that relate to the work of Sport Wales should be reflected in its future annual Remit Letters.

**Update:** We have now developed a unified, national survey which will involve Sport Wales and other stakeholders and will incorporate data on active adults to provide a more rounded picture. Sport Wales, as a provider of statistical information, has been fully involved in the development of questions related to sport and physical activity. The national survey will feature as a priority within the Sport Wales Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.

**Recommendation 3 (Accepted):** In relation to BME communities, we recommend that the Minister works with Sport Wales and relevant organisations to identify alternative and more effective means of data collection on levels of participation in sport within these communities.

**Update:** The new national survey will provide opportunities for more effective ways of data collection on levels of participation in BME communities. However, there are limitations to this approach given the relatively small size of the BME population in Wales.

Sport Wales has worked with the BME taskforce to develop networks in Swansea, Cardiff and Newport. Sport Wales have also commissioned research to identify the barriers to participation in sport by BME communities. Each of the networks have been awarded 'kick start funding', which has been utilised to support grass root sport development within BME Communities.

The Cardiff BME Network undertook a task and finish exercise to better understand the barriers facing BME Women in participating in sport.

This will feature as a priority within the Sport Wales Strategic Equality Plan 2016-2020.

**Recommendation 5 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister works with Sport Wales to define and publish the outcomes by which the success of its Community Sport Strategy and Child Poverty Strategy will be measured. We further recommend that robust arrangements are put in place to monitor and evaluate the success of these Strategies, and to understand their impact on participation levels.

**Update:** Sport Wales is currently developing a new Community Sport Strategy which is underpinned by an **outcomes based investment framework**. This new framework will put the needs of the participant and potential participant at the forefront of our planning. Once introduced all partners will be measured against their contribution towards achieving these **3 key outcomes**:

- to increase the frequency of regular participation in sport - 'Hooked on Sport'
- to target inequalities in participation and provide greater support to those where barriers to regular participation exist
- to develop and enhance the 'Sporting Pathway' so that it provides high quality opportunities for all and allows our most talented athletes to realise their potential.

These three key 'goals' are being developed within the context of the goals contained within the 'Wellbeing and Future Generations Act' which forms the basis of Sport Wales' current remit letter.

A **revised model of delivery** will also be introduced alongside this new investment framework. The model will have effective sector collaboration at the heart of its approach, with local, regional and national partners all working together for maximum impact on sport, creating a connected sports sector, something that is missing from the existing delivery model. It will clarify the roles and responsibilities of each partner and seek to make best use of their knowledge and skills, and importantly produce a long term, sustainable model.

Sport Wales's current Child Poverty Strategy is due to be reviewed and evaluated towards the end of 2015. A long term outcome of the strategy is: To see an increase in participation amongst children and young people living in poverty, contributing to Sport Wales' wider aspiration of all children and young people being hooked on sport for life.

The Sport Wales School Sport survey is the largest of its kind in the world. Since 2011, the School Sport Survey has captured frequency of participation, allowing them to explore the

number of occasions per week pupils take part in organised sport and recreation, outside of the curriculum.

In the survey, 'Receipt of a free school meal' is used as a proxy measure of the socio-economic status of school children in Wales. Using data provided from the Welsh Government Pupil Level Annual School Census<sup>4</sup>, schools in the survey are placed into a Free School Meal (FSM) quartile. FSM quartile 1 has a low percentage of pupils who are eligible for a free school meal and FSM 4 has a high percentage of pupils who are eligible, and can be considered relatively more deprived. Figure 1 below shows the percentage of pupils who are hooked in sport according to the FSM quartile they are in.

	2011	2013	% Difference
<b>FSM 1</b>	34	46	+12
<b>FSM 2</b>	29	41	+2
<b>FSM 3</b>	24	39	+15
<b>FSM 4</b>	25	35	+10

The data indicates that there has been a significant increase in the numbers of underprivileged children who are participating in sport. The 2015 School Sport Survey is currently underway and the results will likely published in November.

**Recommendation 6 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister works with Sport Wales to put in place a programme to identify and subsequently address the barriers to participation in sport that are specific to people from BME backgrounds. This should include undertaking research to better understand what these barriers are.

**Update:** Sport Wales will imminently be publishing a report on the barriers to participation of BME Communities in sport. Undertaken by Leeds University, the report provides a qualitative examination of the challenges faced by members of the BME community in Wales in accessing and participating in sport. Sport Wales will be engaging with BME leaders on how the outcomes of this research can be taken forward for implementation at a community level.

**Recommendation 7 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister publishes an action plan setting out how he intends to improve participation levels among people in BME communities. This should include a set of measureable outcomes.

**Update:** This is one of Sport Wales' equality objectives, and as such action has been included within Sport Wales' equality action plan. This includes Calls for Action funding and the development of BME networks. BME participation in sport is a priority for Sport Wales grants as part of tackling inequities and Sport Wales has invited the WCVA to lead a piece of work to develop a Business Plan, which will recommend an approach (Framework) to promoting sport, increasing participation and improving access to sport within BME Communities. Community ownership and sustainability will be a main focus. The framework will consider insight from the BME Research and will reflect on current infrastructure. WCVA have established a high level steering group which has representation from BME Sector Organisations, YMCA and the Sports Sector. Sport Wales has set a timescale for completion of this work by September 1<sup>st</sup> 2015.



**Recommendation 8 (Accepted):** We recommend the Minister ensures that further work is undertaken to identify ways to encourage girls to participate in sport. This should include research into the types of sport or activities that appeal specifically to girls, and the factors affecting their participation.

**Update:** Sport Wales's research team have produced a factsheet on the data around women & girls' participation in sport to inform the funding criteria for Calls 4 Action. This funding stream prioritises support for women & girls, BME, disability and areas of deprivation. Sport Wales invested £2.35 million in Calls for Action funding this year, including:

- Girl Guiding Cymru (national project) - £240,439
- Welsh Cycling (national project) - £249,342 to encourage women of all ages into cycling
- Welsh Gymnastics (Cardiff-based) - £157,089 to encourage participation of BME girls into gymnastics
- Us Girls Wales (delivered by StreetGames) -£690,000.

With the £690,000 they will receive, StreetGames aims to establish an 'Us Girls' movement across Wales, delivering a new and exciting programme aimed at increasing engagement of inactive and semi-inactive 13-19 year old girls and young women living in disadvantaged communities across Wales. The Us Girls Wales Programme will work closely with Communities First to develop a diverse network of organisations to help mobilise 5,000 girls across Wales over the next two years.

**Recommendation 10 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister and Sport Wales work with local authorities to identify opportunities to increase and improve access to leisure facilities across Wales.

**Update:** Following the Welsh Government Conference on Leisure Services for Physical Activity on 18 September 2014, we have committed to working with local authorities to mitigate the loss of sports and leisure centres. As part of this, we launched a Community Asset Transfer Toolkit for Community Groups and organisations on 26 February 2015. Also, in March 2015, a new £5 million pilot Sport Facilities Capital Loan Scheme was launched for local authorities to refurbish or develop new sport and recreation facilities.

In addition, Sport Wales in partnership with Welsh Government has commissioned work to establish a "Vision for Sport facilities in Wales". The work is supported by the officers from local authorities, the WLGA and National Governing Bodies of Sport. It also endorses the work of the Wales Collaborative Sports Facilities Group (Welsh Rugby Union, Hockey Wales and Football Association of Wales) in relation to a vision of Artificial Turf Pitches in Wales.

The work is currently underway and is due to produce a final report during summer 2015. The core purpose of this work is:

- To provide a clear vision, rationale and guiding principles to support those responsible for decisions on the provision of sport and physical recreation facilities in Wales so that a landscape of appropriate, fit for purpose, fit for the future and sustainable facilities may be created.
- To recognise the issues facing providers and funding bodies as well as the steps being taken to safeguard essential facilities i.e. using 'spend to save' investment; asset transfers; and accessing capital funds
- To provide messages and tools to assist politicians and decision makers in informing cross-government policies
- To identify requirements for further and future action.

**Recommendation 11 (Accepted):** We recommend that the Minister undertake a review of the Free Swimming Scheme in order to identify areas where take-up is low and the reasons for this, and report back to us on his findings.

**Update:** The Welsh Government commissioned Sport Wales to review the Free Swimming Initiative (FSI) with a view to improving take up and cost effectiveness. Following the review, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism considered the report of the Aquatics Group, which is a joint group, made up of representatives from Sport Wales, Swim Wales and some local authorities, and decided that the funding formula should be amended. This was done in order to more effectively target children in deprived areas.

**Recommendation 12 (Accepted in Principle):**

We further recommend that the Minister works with local authorities to address the variance in the provision of free swimming across Wales. The Minister should also publish an action plan setting out how he intends to increase the number of children under the age of 11 who can swim.

**Update:** A new Aquatics report card has been developed by the Aquatics Group for Local Authorities for 2014-18 which prioritises:

- Making every child a Swimmer when they leave KS2 (%)– Measured using Aqua Passport Wales Learn to Swim Framework – Level 4 – 90% by 2018
  - Every KS2 child learning to swim through high quality swimming lessons
  - Aligned resources across FSI, education and leisure
  - Consistent delivery and assessment against the Wales Learn to Swim Framework throughout Wales
- Delivery of the minimum criteria for the Free Swimming Initiative (FSI) will still enable the continuation of more structured swimming opportunities.

## Welsh Government's historic environment policy

**Recommendation 1 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends that before proceeding with any merger involving the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, the Minister should give full consideration to the concerns raised by expert witnesses during the course of our inquiry.

**Update:** On 14 January 2014, the then Minister for Culture and Sport announced in Plenary his decision not to merge Cadw and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales. In coming to his decision, the Minister had regard to the views expressed during the consultation which formed part of *the future of our past* consultation. He also took into account the views expressed by witnesses and Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee members during the course of its inquiry.

**Recommendation 2 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should explore options to strengthen the status of the Historic Environment Records, including putting them on a statutory footing.

**Update:** One of the provisions in the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill is to place a duty on local planning authorities to create and keep up to date a historic environment record either directly or through the agency of another person or organisation.

**Recommendation 3 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should explore options to simplify the listing system.

**Update:** The consultation, *the future of our past*, included six proposals for improvements to the listed building consent process. There was no clear consensus forthcoming from consultation responses on the improvements needed. To augment the evidence obtained from the consultation, Cadw commissioned Hyder consulting Ltd, to undertake a study: 'Refining the listed building consent process', to examine the strengths and weaknesses of the current process. As a result of this study new policy, advice and guidance has been developed that complements the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill and which will help local planning authorities and owners in the preparation and quicker determination of listed building consent applications. The draft technical advice note for the historic environment and the guidance on managing change to listed buildings and applying for listed building consent, which has been published alongside the Bill, will introduce greater flexibility and clarity into the process.

**Recommendation 4 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should ensure that Local Authorities are applying and enforcing rules around listings consistently.

**Update:** As part of the package of measures to support the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill a draft of the historic environment chapter of Planning Policy Wales, a draft technical advice note and draft guidance on managing change to listed buildings have been published. These documents will assist in delivering greater consistency across Wales. Furthermore, the role of the Cadw regional inspectors of historic buildings seeks to foster a consistent approach to the management of listed buildings across Wales. Cadw also hosts the Built Heritage Forum which brings together conservation officers from local authorities across Wales. This forum provides an opportunity for the exchange of views on subjects/issues and to agree future actions for partners. Cadw is also represented at the regional conservation officers' fora and again this

enables good practice and ideas to be shared and helps foster a more consistent approach to issues such as enforcement action.

**Recommendation 5 (Accepted in Principle):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should explore options to introduce a statutory timescale for the review of listed properties or buildings, taking into account sustainability and usage.

**Update:** An all-Wales resurvey of listed buildings was completed in 2005. This was a comprehensive exercise to bring the lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest in Wales up-to-date, using expert advisors to carry out assessments according to consistent criteria. There are no plans for a further full resurvey which would be resource intensive and very expensive. However, there are mechanisms in place both to add buildings to the List (through spot-listing), and also to remove them from it (through de-listing). Officials in Cadw continue to respond to requests to review past decisions on listing in light of new evidence.

**Recommendation 6 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should explore options to introduce a system so that, where local authority searches show that a building is listed and/or in a conservation area, the new owner is provided by the local authority with clear guidance concerning restrictions and responsibilities associated with the listed status.

**Update:** Cadw is preparing a guidance document that will focus on assisting owners to understand the significance of their buildings and their responsibilities. Local Planning Authorities will have access to this document, and will be encouraged to disseminate to new owners.

**Recommendation 7 (Accepted in Principle):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should introduce a system to ascertain, at the point of sale/transfer, whether there has been any violation of listed building regulations and to gather information on the condition of the building.

**Update:** There are already mechanisms in place to enable local planning authorities and Welsh Ministers to ascertain whether there has been any violation of a listed building regulation. Some local authorities visit listed buildings with potential buyers to provide reassurance that the correct authorisation for any works has been received.

They are currently able to charge for such a service as section 93 of the Local Government Act 2003 provides that authority may charge a person for providing a service to him if-

- (a) the authority is authorised (but not required) to provide the service; and
- (b) the person has agreed to the provision of the service.

**Recommendation 8 (Accepted in Principle):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should explore the introduction of a mechanism so that, following work to a listed building, a listed building appraisal should be undertaken within a specified timeframe.

**Update:** The listed building consent process is intended to provide a framework for managing change to listed buildings that protects their character as buildings of special architectural or historic interest. In granting consent, local authorities have the power to impose conditions, which are necessary, relevant, enforceable, precise and reasonable. The onus is on the owner to carry out the work in accordance with the conditions of the consent, as failure to do so will be a criminal offence. When faced with a breach of listed building control, local authorities will need to consider whether to take enforcement action or to prosecute, or both.

**Recommendation 9 (Accepted in Principle):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should take steps to introduce a statutory register for historic parks and gardens, so that they are fully protected within the planning system.

**Update:** One of the provisions in the Historic Environment (Wales) Bill is to place a statutory duty upon the Welsh Ministers to create and maintain a register of historic parks and gardens in Wales.

**This recommendation has subsequently been accepted in full.**

**Recommendation 10 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should put in place mechanisms to ensure better collaboration in promoting the historic environment.

**Update:** The Historic Environment Strategy for Wales identified public participation, understanding and enjoyment of heritage, and realising economic benefit through tourism as two priority areas that can support sustainable development and improved life-chances, and contribute to the Welsh Government's aspirations to tackle poverty. Our stakeholder group on the historic environment provides an excellent forum for collaboration around these themes. Key partners on this group include Amgueddfa Cymru-National Museum Wales, the four Welsh Archaeological Trusts, the Royal Commission on Ancient and Historic Monuments in Wales, Civic Trust Cymru and the National Trust, all of whom are involved in making the historic environment accessible and stimulating to visitors.

A number of specific measures to cross promote other heritage sites have already been implemented, including:

- the inclusion of non-Cadw properties on Cadw leaflets;
- use of the Cadw website and social media; itineraries to encourage people to visit other, nearby sites; promotion to the travel trade as well as the general public;
- collaboration on summer shows and special promotions offering reciprocal discounts for visitors to heritage sites and museums.

Other initiatives include:

- Open Doors - working with a range of bodies, groups and owners to allow public access to the historic buildings not normally accessible, or which usually charge admission. In 2014, Open Doors, run in-house for first time, ran 1,000 events at 343 properties in Wales, attracting 34,000 visitors and facilitated by 2,500 volunteers.
- Tourism promotion and visitor research in collaboration with Visit Wales.
- Events - Cadw runs more than 500 events and days out across Wales, including participative activities at sites and summer shows, tours, talks, living history and live performances.

**Recommendation 12 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should explore the possibility of establishing a national membership-based heritage organisation, in order to promote historic sites.

**Update:** Cadw and the National Trust – already have a wide membership base. They are in active discussions about how they can maximise the opportunities that this offers. Our stakeholder group on the historic environment brings together these and other national or regional organisations with a role to play – such as Visit Wales, National Museum Wales,

Glandŵr Cymru, the National Parks, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Royal Commission and the Welsh Archaeological Trusts – with a commitment to promote the sector, engage the public, benefit local groups and museums, and provide mutual support and cross-promotion. Recommendation 14 deals with the establishment of an informal heritage alliance which will also positively promote sites.

**Recommendation 13 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends that the Welsh Government should ensure that Cadw prioritises accessibility to its sites, and ensures its approach is consistent.

**Update:** Cadw continues to take steps to ensure that historic sites are physically and intellectually accessible and enjoyable to visit both for visitors and people who live in Wales. It also targets hard to reach audiences. Examples of work that is underway include:

- Provision of facilities that support visitors with protected characteristics such as disability or age.
- Free or reduced admission to Cadw sites for a range of groups - including people with physical, sensory and mental health problems, and their carers (13,520 visitors in 2014-15), senior citizens (119,149 visitors in 2014-15) and learning visits (89,174 visitors in 2014-15).
- Visitor research - to understand the profile, attitudes and motivations of its current visitor base. This informs Cadw's policy on access by under-represented groups.
- Cadw is working in partnership with Action for Children to remove financial barriers to visiting sites in Cadw's care for cared for children and the families caring for them, by giving free admission to foster families through a foster families membership scheme. The aim of the scheme is to help disadvantaged young people understand their local and national heritage and culture – and use some of Wales's most stunning heritage sites to relax, undertake therapeutic work, hold events and have fun.
- The Heritage Tourism Project - enhancing access, understanding and enjoyment by providing modern visitor facilities and contemporary interpretation using new technologies, art and living history re-enactments. The new interpretation is focused primarily on family visits and activities, with additional provision for school parties and specialist interests. Major projects include St David's Bishop's Palace, Harlech, Caernarfon and Denbigh castles and Blaenavon Ironworks.
- At Harlech Castle, a 45 metre bridge, linking the new visitor terrace with the castle's gatehouse has been installed. The bridge has enabled level access to the gatehouse, allowing access to the castle in the way it was first intended when it was built 600 year ago.
- A programme of events that is intended to appeal to and attract additional visitors to the sites.

**Recommendation 14 (Accepted):** The Committee recommends the Welsh Government should explore the possibility of establishing a representative umbrella body, such as English Heritage, to represent non-Government organisations in the third and private sectors.

**Update:** An analysis of the structure, resilience and capacity of the third sector in Wales and an investigation of the potential for new support structures, such as a membership-based Welsh heritage network commissioned by Cadw, was published in March 2014. The report recommended the establishment of an 'informal alliance' of third sector organisations and identified a need for development office support building preservation trusts.

As a result, the Welsh Government through Cadw is funding Civic Trust Cymru to lead on the development of a new Wales Heritage Group. Cadw has also been discussing proposals for regional development officers to support existing Welsh Building Trusts and help establish new ones with the UK Association of Building Preservation Trusts and other key partners. It is anticipated that this will culminate in a bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund shortly.

## Participation in the Arts in Wales

**Recommendation 1 (Accepted in Principle):** The Welsh Government should put in place a participation action plan, to sit alongside its accessibility action plan, with the purpose of increasing participation levels across Wales.

**Update:** A final version of the Action Plan was agreed in September 2013. Work continues to be monitored at Quarterly Monitoring Meetings. Progress will be reported to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee annually.

**Recommendation 2 (Accepted):** The action plan should include measures to monitor participation levels across the arts, and actions to identify inequality of provision (e.g. due to geographic, economic or social reasons).

**Update:** ACW's current monitoring includes:

1. The RFO survey, reporting twice a year on attendance and participation levels by its revenue funded organisations.
2. The Adult and Children's Omnibus surveys, undertaken annually.
3. Quarterly monitoring of Lottery funded projects, including participatory activity.
4. Wales Arts Review – a large scale survey of participation and attendance in the arts across Wales, undertaken every five years.

ACW has developed a new system for monitoring project funded activity that can also report on geographic, economic and social breakdown.

**Recommendation 3 (Accepted):** In addition to accessibility and equality, the Welsh Government's annual remit letter should include an emphasis on increasing participation levels.

**Update:** As in 2013-14, the 2014/15 Remit Letter highlights the need to continue with efforts to increase participation levels, despite the difficulties caused by the current financial climate and pressures on funding. Increasing participation in the arts remains a standing requirement in ACW's funding agreement with its RFOs.

**Recommendation 4 (Accepted):** The action plan should include measures to ensure co-ordination across government departments and joint working by partners, including local government and the voluntary sector.

**Update:** Creative Economy (Arts) officials have undertaken an exercise in collaboration with colleagues in other Departments, to identify existing and new initiatives that do or could support increased participation in the arts.

Work continues within Cadw, through initiatives such as the Artists in Residence scheme. Similarly Amgueddfa Cymru/ National Museum runs participatory activities during school holidays to encourage young people to develop an interest in arts and culture.

ACW has commissioned Voluntary Arts Wales to undertake a programme aimed at increasing and sustaining voluntary arts activity in areas of Wales where there is low take up.



ACW is also delivering its 'Momentum' programme in partnership with the Welsh Government Communities First team; this is aimed at engaging young people - who are NEET or at risk of this - with the Arts.

**Recommendation 5 (Accepted):** The Arts Council of Wales should keep under review its funding policies, to ensure that they are delivering excellence, while increasing participation levels.

**Update:** ACW staff currently review and report to sponsor division and to ACW Council on a quarterly basis, and undertake a full review at the year end.

**Recommendation 6 (Accepted):** The Arts Council of Wales should ensure that organisations are able to access information on alternative sources of funding. This should be in the form of training, if necessary.

**Update:** Information about trusts and foundations is included in ACW's funding guidelines, available on its website. ACW runs funding surgeries across Wales providing information, help and support on accessing its Lottery funding.

ACW is exploring the possibility of developing these funding surgeries to include more information about other sources of funding.

ACW's RFO development Plan for 2014-15 includes capacity building and fundraising.

ACW recently provided information to Arts Branch on examples of successful bids to Trusts and Foundations made by a number of their RFOs.

Artworks Cymru, funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, has been a very successful project, which involves developing the skills of professionals working in participatory arts settings. ACW and Paul Hamlyn are supporting an extension of the project.

ACW is also supporting an older people's participatory project, in a funding partnership with the Baring Foundation.

**Recommendation 7 (Accepted):** The Arts Council of Wales should ensure that it uses its relationships with networks to ensure that information reaches relevant organisations.

**Update:** ACW has entered into a service agreement with VAW to deliver and expand "Running Your Group", a web based resource for voluntary arts organisations.

ACW continues to fund Disability Arts Cymru as one of its RFOs. ACW also continues to have a strong working relationship with Diverse Cymru and Age Concern.

The '*Creative Learning through the Arts Action Plan*', which arose from the Smith Review into Arts In Education, will make a major contribution towards this objective. The Plan involves a 5-year £20 million programme, with roll-out in schools from September 2015.

**Recommendation 8 (Accepted):** The Arts Council of Wales should put in place a strategy to increase levels of funding from business.

**Update:** ACW worked with the Welsh Government to secure the future of Arts and Business Cymru for 2014/15 -16. For next year A&BC has been invited to develop a business plan

involving less reliance on subsidy. Much rests on this, as it is the lead body for business sponsorship in the arts.

ACW has held various seminars involving eminent speakers under its Developing Resilience Programme, e.g. on leadership and philanthropy through technology.

ACW has given the DONATE platform a grant to adapt its online technology for Wales, NB to enable the use of the Welsh language.

ACW has provided a Digital R&D grant to an applicant looking to develop the technology for an online ticket levy for philanthropic purposes.

In its 'Sgwrs' events, ACW has run workshops on Crowd sourcing for audience development. ACW is also working with commercial and subsidised galleries to develop its '*Collectorplan*' scheme, to increase sales of art works.

## Welsh Premier League

**Recommendation 1 (Accepted):** The FAW, Welsh Government and Sport Wales should develop a co-ordinated approach to developing football in Wales. The Minister for Sport should report back to the Assembly on the progress of discussions.

**Update:** The FAW will be launching a 2020 vision and strategic plan for football this summer “More than a game” setting out its ambitious goals for football after significant consultation with a broad range of key stakeholders. The document sets out 6 broad ambitious goals. WFT has launched its own corporate plan (2015-2020) to support its contribution towards the delivery of the overarching football strategy. Two of six key outcomes are ‘transforming communities through football for all’ and ‘a stronger and sustainable domestic game’. Sport Wales has provided 4 years in-principle support to the WFT based on the Corporate Plan and its ambitious goals, with the mission of supporting the delivery of the vision for football by growing the game and raising standards. Four key actions for the WFT are:

1. Identify, develop and prepare talented young players for international competition;
2. Ensure football has a well-trained and high performing voluntary and professional workforce to produce more and better players;
3. Grow the game through more accessible and flexible playing opportunities and to use the power of football to improve education, training and health outcomes for communities throughout Wales;
4. Aim to operate within our organisational values and achieve excellent customer service standards.

**Recommendation 2 (Accepted):** The FAW and Welsh Government should explore how the WPL clubs can support the delivery of broader policy objectives and the support that the clubs can access, financial or otherwise, to do so.

**Update:** In 2013 the FAW launched Project 3G which will see around £5m invested into 3G facilities at WPL clubs. The 3G pitch is the catalyst for the development of the ‘club is the hub’ model creating more sustainable clubs with a more professionalised workforce and increased community engagement. The applicant club must provide a robust business case prior to any investment and the FAW / WFT staff provide advice and support to the clubs in developing the business case. Staff are particularly involved in developing realistic usage plans which support the Welsh Football strategic aims of increasing participation and reducing inequality. Four projects have been completed to date and staff are involved in monitoring and supporting the progress of these facilities in order to protect and provide the best return on the investment. Five other projects are planned for 2016.

This is, in some ways, indirect engagement as the WG funds WFT through Sport Wales, however, it is having a direct impact on the sustained improvement at WPL clubs.

**Recommendation 4 (Accepted in Principle):** The Welsh Government should work with the FAW to develop a strategy to outline its vision for WPL clubs as community hubs, to ensure that the strategy supports the wider vision of supporting grassroots football and widening participation.

**Update:** This is set out in the 2020 strategy and is a key aim of the FAW funded Project 3G programme which aims to develop 3G pitches linked to WPL clubs.

**Recommendation 5 (Accepted in Principle):** The Welsh Government should develop a strategy for developing 3/4G pitches across Wales.

**Update:** The FAW, WFT and Hockey Wales have formed the Collaborative Sports Facilities Group and developed a joint strategic vision for the development of artificial pitches across Wales. An All Wales Vision and Guidance for Artificial Turf Pitches has been commissioned by this group which represents the Governing Bodies of Rugby, Football and Hockey in Wales. It was prepared to help inform the future approaches and decisions in Wales, of Local Authorities, Education Establishments, the National Governing Bodies and their Clubs and Sport Wales.

**Recommendation 8 (Accepted):** The FAW and Sport Wales should explore how the academy system can be used to support grassroots football.

**Update:** A review of Academies has been completed which will be considered by a joint Working Party including representatives from the FAW Community, National Game and International Boards.

**Recommendation 9 (Accepted):** The FAW and Sport Wales should explore whether additional financial assistance can be put in place to support young people who wish to play football, but who find it difficult to do so because of the financial demands (e.g. purchase of kit, travelling costs etc).

**Update:** Sport Wales has invested an additional £100k in the WFT this financial year to support the WFT regional investment plans. This plan is focused on tackling the higher level outcome 'transforming communities through football for all'. 2024 targets for this outcome are as follows:

- 50% of young people playing football once a week;
- 20000 registered female players;
- 30% of young people playing football at least twice a week – 60000 registered players;
- 1500 registered players with a disability;
- 4% of registered players from a BME background.

## The future outlook for the media in Wales

**Recommendation 2 (Accepted in Principle):** The Welsh Government should commission a review to map the media needs of the people of Wales. This review should inform media policy across all sectors, including existing and developing technologies.

**Update:** The Welsh Government has engaged proactively with Ofcom to ensure that its reviews of communication markets and – most recently – its third review of Public Service Broadcasting provide in-depth analysis of media consumption, emerging trends and requirements, including at a Wales level. We have responded constructively and in detail to each consultation on these reports. This data provides a key baseline of information for Wales and informs ongoing policy development.

We have especially emphasised the need to improve governance arrangements and the accountability of the broadcasters, plus the need for the regulator to have a specific public policy duty in relation to the devolved governments of the UK. On both of these matters significant progress has been made within the last 12 months. Commitments to strengthen the Welsh Government's involvement in key appointments and to ensure that broadcasters are more accountable to the National Assembly were contained in the recent St. David's Day commend paper; and in Ofcom's latest Annual Plan it has now extended its public policy duty to include the devolved governments.

**Recommendation 3 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should ensure that it engages fully and proactively in the Communications Bill process, to ensure that the Bill reflects the needs of Wales

**Update:** The Welsh Government took every opportunity to provide an input from a Welsh perspective. For example in the Welsh Government's response (September 2012) to the UK Government's Communications Review seminar *Supporting growth in the (audio) sector* we indicated that we would not wish to see further relaxation or removal of the current localness rules. We also noted that it was vital that there was an appropriate level of localness provision in particular local news.

**Recommendation 4 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should continue to strengthen linkages across Government departments to ensure that the maximum benefit, economic and cultural, can be drawn from the media sectors.

**Update:** The Welsh Government has continued to work collaboratively across government departments. Since September 2014, broadcasting and creative industries are now both located within the same portfolio.

**Recommendation 5 (Accepted):** As part of its role, the independent forum should keep under review the issue of the devolution of broadcasting in Wales and advise the Welsh Government as appropriate.

**Update:** The UK Government has not offered to devolve any aspects of broadcasting policy.

The Welsh Government response to the Silk 2 report noted that its recommendation on the devolution of the DCMS element of funding of S4C carried risks, unless it was accompanied by

strong safeguards about the continued overall funding of the channel, including in the context of changes to the way the BBC is funded after 2017, following charter renewal. The UK Government's St David's Day Command Paper noted that there was no consensus on devolving responsibility for the UK Government funding for S4C to the Welsh Government. This was in line with our initial evidence to the Silk Commission.

**Recommendation 6 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should develop a protocol with the UK Government for dealing with broadcasting issues which are not devolved.

**Update:** The Welsh Government's concordat with DCMS covering all non devolved policy matters including broadcasting is still in existence. In addition, on a case by case basis the Welsh Government works closely with the UK Government to formalise involvement in significant issues (e.g., the development of a Memorandum of Understanding that will set out how the Welsh Government will participate in the review of the BBC's Royal Charter).

**Recommendation 10 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should make representations to the UK Government and Ofcom for the current Channel 3 licence provisions to be the minimum requirement for renewal of the licence.

**Update:** As reflected in our response to the Ofcom consultation in 2013 on the Channel 3 licence, the Welsh Government does not view the existing level of provision as appropriate, or even adequate; it is a minimum standard that barely manages to deliver against very basic Public Service Broadcasting requirements. Protecting the existing coverage provision should have been the minimum condition for renewal of the Channel 3 licence. We would like to see an increase in provision and this is reflected in our Programme for Government. We believe that increasing the provision is appropriate, especially considering ITV plc's current healthy financial position.

**Recommendation 11 (Accepted in Principle):** The Welsh Government should explore opportunities, at an appropriate time, for the introduction of a Wales-specific Channel 3 licence.

**Update:** We welcomed the creation of a separate Channel 3 licence for Wales which we believe should reflect Welsh identity in both name and output, as is the case with the equivalent Channel 3 licences in Scotland and Northern Ireland. We were disappointed that the opportunity was not taken to strengthen the terms of the licence, both to guarantee a higher level of service provision for Wales and to protect that service in the event of any change of ownership, but we remain committed to a constructive dialogue with Ofcom and ITV to maximise the impact of the licence in Wales.

**Recommendation 12(Accepted):** The Welsh Government should explore ways to work more effectively with Channel 4 to support Welsh companies.

**Update:** The Welsh Government strongly believes that if Channel 4 receives public funding then it should be required to produce at least a population share of network commissions in the nations and regions. This is fully in conformity with Channel 4's role in developing new talent throughout the UK. We were disappointed that Ofcom did not agree with our view, as reflected in our response to its consultation in 2014, that the Channel 4 quota for Out of London productions should be implemented by 2016 rather than 2020. It is still our view that Channel 4 should be able to achieve the new quota level significantly before the 2020 deadline.

Channel 4's record in commissioning content from Wales has historically been negligible; Channel 4 spend in Wales remains below 1% of total Channel 4 content spend and the broadcaster, which is based in Scotland, has no commissioning staff in Wales. This should be

seen in the context of its existing target for Out of England TV production, which for some time has been 3% and has recently been amended to 9% by 2020. When Channel 4 launched its 4IP on-line initiatives to develop community-based news and public service facilities online, considerable efforts were made in Wales to attract a share in the programme, but without success.

The Welsh Government worked successfully with Channel 4 on the Alpha Fund. This was a useful starting point for the development of a more strategic relationship with Channel 4. Ultimately we would like to see a permanent Channel 4 presence in Wales.

The Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism and David Abraham, the Chief Executive of Channel 4, have corresponded on these matters and met in Cardiff to discuss them further in June 2015. Following a positive meeting Mr Abraham was introduced to a number of Welsh producers and had a constructive dialogue about developing Channel 4's working relationships in Wales.

**Recommendation 13 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should keep under review the impact of budget cuts on the independent television production sector and identify new ways of providing the sector with advice and support.

**Update:** The Welsh Government has been clear about its concerns in relation to the impact of budget cuts affecting BBC Cymru Wales and S4C, plus the potential the impact of changes to commissioning and the approach to developing productions by the large broadcasters. These concerns include the potential threat to jobs and growth in the independent sub-sector, from which both broadcasters commission a significant number of productions. The Welsh Government has proactively engaged with Ofcom in recent years to ensure that licence conditions for the broadcasters protect the interests of Welsh viewers and businesses as much as possible, and continues to engage closely with the UK Government on key issues such as the current of the BBC's Royal Charter, which could have significant implications for Wales.

The Welsh Government's Creative Industries sector team focuses on supporting the television supply chain in Wales, through networking events and the ongoing development of initiatives to improve and embed key skills (e.g., the recent, successful pilot scheme based at Bay Studios in Swansea, which allowed talented individuals to shadow leading experts in key TV production roles where we have a capacity shortfall in Wales, allowing them to gain the skills and experience needed to full these roles in Wales). The Wales Screen location and crew service provides an important, continually improving, service which helps to ensure that productions deliver as cost effectively as possible in Wales, using the best talent available. Additionally, the Welsh Government runs the Creative Europe desk in Wales, which advises companies, including independent producers, about applying for funding from the Creative Europe programme.

**Recommendation 14 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should continue to make representations to the UK Government to ensure 97% coverage in Wales before digital switchover

**Update:** The Welsh Government has consistently stressed to the UK Government that one of the fundamental criteria driving digital radio switchover should be that the coverage in Wales is no less than that in the rest of the UK. We have pressed for there to be at least 97% coverage for DAB throughout Wales.

The Welsh Government welcomed the announcement in December 2013 that there will be continued investment by the UK Government, as well as the BBC and commercial radio, in support of digital radio roll out. However, we remain concerned that even when the proposed

criteria are met on a UK basis, there would almost certainly be a significantly lower level of DAB penetration in Wales.

**Recommendation 15 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should explore all opportunities to continue to support community radio in Wales.

**Update:** The Welsh Government believes that community radio provides a key service for local residents, reflecting the issues affecting people and their communities. For this reason we set up the Community Radio Fund in 2007. From April 2008 to March 2014 the Welsh Government distributed £100,000 per year to community radio stations in Wales.

Due to pressure on budgets across the Welsh Government and difficult decisions having to be made, it was not possible for the Community Radio Fund to continue post March 2014. The final year of the Community Radio Fund was to have been 2012/13 but an extension was granted and the Fund continued for a further twelve months to allow community radio stations to investigate alternative sources of funding for April 2014 and beyond. The Fund ended finally in March 2014

Although the Fund has come to an end we continue to recognise the importance of community radio stations in providing a valuable service for local residents.

**Recommendation 16 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should make representations to the UK Government to include specific Welsh language duties for Ofcom in the Communications Bill.

**Update:** As part of the Communications Review process between 2011 and 2013, the Welsh Government informed DCMS that we would not wish to see further relaxation or removal of the current localness rules. In particular we expressed our wish for any new legislation to include a commitment for commercial radio stations to reflect the language of local communities. Under the existing legislation commercial radio stations are not obliged in their output to reflect the language of local communities unless such a condition is included in the licences. This issue, of course, was a factor in the discussions in relation to Ofcom's Welsh Language Scheme.

**Recommendation 18 (Accepted in Principle):** The Welsh Government should ensure that it is in a position to engage with newspaper companies so that viable measures can be put in place when it becomes apparent that either significant numbers of jobs are to be lost, or newspapers are going to be closed.

**Update:** The Welsh Government's Creative Industries sector team supports all sub-sectors, including newspapers and publishing. As one example, the Welsh Government supported Newsquest in order to secure the opening of a Wales HQ in Newport, bringing a significant number of jobs in the print media industry into the area.

Additionally, we are well aware of issues pertaining to the online transition of news services from print to online and engage with stakeholders at a national and local level to identify ways in which the Welsh Government may be able to support the economic viability of the industry as these changes move forward.



**Recommendation 19 (Accepted in Principle):** The Welsh Government should continue to progress the recommendations of the Hargreaves review, and report back to the Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee regularly on progress.

**Update:** Most of the Hargreaves recommendations were implemented. The Welsh Government has moved on from the Hargreaves Review and is now focused on the policy direction recommended by the current Creative Industries Sector Panel and accepted by the Welsh Government. These policies have created a clear and coherent plan that prioritises delivering support for the commercial creative sector and, as the economic statistics show, Wales is having significant success in its creative economy.

**Recommendation 20 (Accept):** The Welsh Government should do more to communicate to stakeholders the purpose and role of its Creative Industries Sector panel.

**Update:** The Welsh Government has held a number of events over the last year where stakeholders were given the opportunity to meet panel members, as well as Pinewood executives and the sector team. The evidence collected by the Welsh Government demonstrates that traditional media production is still an important part of the economic picture in Wales, but that digital media is also crucial to economic success as a fast growing subsector and therefore requires government intervention too. The Welsh Government's attention to digital media as well as traditional media led to the creation of the Digital Development Fund. Half of Digital Week 2015's 'Digital Dozen', which are businesses chosen as exemplars for digital innovation, had received support from this fund.

**Recommendation 21 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should explore opportunities, including working with higher education institutions, to encourage innovation and foster new business models.

**Update:** The Welsh Government's strategy, *Innovation Wales*, is published and is being used to guide policy & investments. The strategy calls for a broad definition of innovation including supporting social innovation and the creative industries. Since the report, EST has supported the private sector to develop business accommodation which is amenable to the creative & cultural sectors, namely, a branch of TechHub in Swansea & Welsh ICE in Caerphilly.

An Open Innovation programme has been developed which enables Anchor companies and smaller companies to collaborate on commercially exploitable projects and develop new business models.

WEPSIN was awarded £220k by Welsh Government's Academic Expertise for Business programme, to build on the success achieved by Welsh athletes in the Delhi 2010 Commonwealth Games and London Olympics 2012. The initiative supported the goals for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow 2014 and will support the Olympic Games in Rio 2016 and beyond. The network is a mix of experts in the areas of Sport, Academia and Industry, forming a unique knowledge exchange forum to improve the performance of both Welsh sport and business.

The University of South Wales secured £50,000 of Academic Expertise for Business A4B funding via the Welsh Government. A4B funding enabled the University to work with Welsh elite athletes preparing for the commonwealth Games and to test and develop new protocols and peripherals.

**Recommendation 22 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should monitor proposals by the UK Government to change laws relating to intellectual property rights and should make representations to the UK Government that any changes should be suitable to the needs of Wales.)

**Update:** The Welsh Government acknowledges that companies in the creative sector need to understand intellectual property and is exploring options to provide quality advice on best practice and opportunities in this and other areas.

**Recommendation 23 (Accepted):** The Welsh Government should develop a strategic approach to the provision of training, to sit alongside its other policies, including the Digital Wales Delivery Plan.

**Update:** Significant investment has been made to the provision of training for the sector. Much of this work has been undertaken by the Sector Skills Councils – Creative Skillset Cymru and Creative & Cultural Skills - in partnership with other sector bodies.

Creative Skillset Cymru received three separate Sector Priority Fund Programme (SPFP) projects that had a combined value of £1.1m.

#### Apprenticeship in Creative and Digital Media

Level 4 Apprenticeship in Creative and Digital Media - Interactive and Digital Media Pathway. This project has coordinated the delivery of a Level 4 Apprenticeship in Interactive and Digital Media. Apprentices have had the opportunity to begin their creative and digital media careers with companies.

#### Apprenticeship in Fashion and Textiles

Creative Skillset have co-ordinated the delivery of a Level 2 and 3 Apprenticeship in Fashion and Textiles in Wales. The qualification offered a range of pathways that enable the qualifications to be specific and relevant to the sector in Wales.

#### Creative Provision

Creative Provision developed the quality of the educational provision within Further and Higher Education in Wales. This is linked to Creative Skillset's programme of industry endorsing courses. The aim of the project was to support industry intervention into curriculum content and design and to drive employer and education engagement.

#### Skills for the Digital Economy (SfDE)

The SfDE Programme was devised in 2010 in response to The Heart of Digital Wales report (Hargreaves, 2009). The programme developed and delivered flexible, industry-led training of creative media employers and freelancers working or living in West Wales, the Valleys and North West Wales. This four and a half year programme was supported by the European Social Fund

DfES business skills and training support is available to digital media businesses as it is to other Welsh businesses.





Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair  
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

24 August 2015

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 July regarding the renewal of the BBC Charter.

The Welsh Government is fully aware of the importance of the next BBC Charter Renewal and we will be responding by 8 October to the consultation on the Green Paper

The Welsh Government intends to play a full and active role in the Charter review process. We are already engaged in discussions with DCMS and the other devolved governments, in addition to our ongoing dialogue on this with the BBC, both in Wales and at the UK level.

### **Charter Renewal Priorities for Wales**

The Welsh Government's priorities will include, but not be limited to, ensuring that there is:

- Sufficient funding for BBC Cymru Wales for news and non-news programming in the Welsh and English languages.
- Protecting sufficient funding for S4C.
- Accountability: the need to strengthen the current governance arrangements which are in place and reconsider the role of the Audience Council of Wales.
- Ongoing commitment to an increase in both 'Out of London' productions and the BBC's investment / economic impact in the nations and regions of the UK, including Wales. This should include a continued commitment from the BBC for Wales to be a centre for Drama Production.
- Continued improvement in the portrayal of Wales on network BBC productions.
- Availability of BBC Radio Wales on FM.
- A HD version of BBC2 Cymru Wales.

### **Engagement with the UK Government and formalising arrangements for input to Charter process**

During recent months, Welsh Ministers and officials have been liaising closely with the UK Government to ensure that the Welsh Government as well as the National Assembly for

Wales is fully involved in the Charter Renewal discussions from the outset. Wales must and will have a voice in these deliberations otherwise changes may be instigated at the BBC that do not meet Welsh needs. It is vital that the new Charter properly reflects the current and changing devolution settlement, and that it recognises and protects the interests of the people of Wales

Engagement with the UK Government in relation to the Charter Renewal process began well before the UK General Election in May. Since the Election, Welsh Ministers have written to the UK Government's Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, John Whittingdale MP on a number of broadcasting matters, including our expectation that we will be fully involved in discussions on renewal of the BBC's Royal Charter from the outset.

In June, a Memorandum of Understanding was agreed between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the BBC, the Scottish Government and the Scottish Parliament on the process of reviewing the BBC's Charter. We appreciated that DCMS had sought to achieve agreement in Scotland in the first instance given that there was a specific commitment to achieve this in the command paper "*Scotland in the United Kingdom: An enduring settlement*". The Welsh Government was pleased that a model had been developed which was applicable not just to Scotland but to each of the devolved nations. In addition to formalising the roles of the Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales, a similar agreement for Wales would build positively on the UK Government's commitments in the command paper "*Powers for a Purpose: Towards a Lasting devolution Settlement for Wales*".

Since June, the Welsh Government has been engaging closely with DCMS at both Ministerial and official levels to formalise a comparable Memorandum of Understanding for Wales that enshrines an equal place at the table for Wales in the Charter Renewal negotiations. In addition, we would expect any improved accountability of the BBC to be implemented on a consistent basis across all of the devolved nations, including Wales. We have been given an assurance that the UK Government intends to treat the devolved governments equitably in terms of formal participation in the Charter review.

DCMS has provided a draft Memorandum of Understanding for Wales and the North of Ireland in relation to Charter review. It is a direct read-across of the elements of the Scottish MoU that relate to enshrining the role of the devolved governments in the Charter review process itself. The elements contained in the MoU for Scotland that are missing from the proposed MoU for Wales relate entirely to duties placed on the BBC after Charter review - to provide annual reports and statements of accounts to the relevant devolved Government and Parliament and to appear regularly before relevant committees of the devolved Parliaments. DCMS has confirmed that this is purely to expedite an agreement which ensures that the Welsh Government will have an equal input into the Charter review process as Scotland – a process which has already started.

DCMS is aware of the UK Government's commitment in the St. David's Day command paper to ask the BBC to report to Wales and we have been assured that they will work with us to formalise this in parallel with ongoing Charter review discussions. DCMS has agreed in principle to further discussions once the initial MoU's have been signed, to formalise additional commitments in relation to the BBC's ongoing accountability to the devolved governments and assemblies in Wales and the North of Ireland, comparable to those already included in the MoU for Scotland. These would be included in a revised MoU, which would supersede the original in due course.

The Welsh Government is content with the draft Memorandum of Understanding provided by DCMS. The draft is now with the BBC Trust for consideration. I will provide an update on the status of the MoU when I appear before the Committee on 16 September.

## **Advisory Panel on the Charter Review process**

I wrote to the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on 29 July to express surprise and disappointment that the UK Government had established an advisory panel on the Charter review process without any consultation with the Welsh Government, or indeed any of the other devolved nations. We are concerned that there was no representative to reflect the views and needs of Wales on the Panel. We also noted the limited Public Service Broadcasting expertise represented on the Panel as a whole.

I emphasised the need for the Panel to fully consult with stakeholders across the UK as part of its deliberations, including the devolved governments, to ensure that its advice reflects and takes full account of the needs of people in all of the nations and regions of the UK.

## **Engagement with the other devolved nations**

During April and May, I wrote to my counterparts in Scotland and the North of Ireland seeking a meeting to discuss broadcasting issues especially Charter Renewal. On 4 August that meeting was held in Glasgow. During the meeting we agreed to work together to ensure that the BBC Charter renewal process reflects and prioritises our shared interests.

## **First Minister's letter to the BBC's Director General**

On 17 August the First Minister wrote to Lord Tony Hall, Director General of the BBC to highlight the growing gulf in funding between Wales and other parts of the UK, adding that an additional £30m is needed to ensure programming that truly reflects the lives of people in Wales.

In the context of the cuts that BBC Cymru Wales has absorbed over the last ten years, the Welsh Government believes that an additional £30 million is required specifically for English-language programming, bringing the total budget to £50m. This would allow Welsh audiences to have a credible national television station that could provide quality content in English, including drama, comedy and also potentially network contributions.

It is important to stress that our call for additional funding for English-language programming should not be top sliced from the funding allocated to S4C (or from the £20m BBC Cymru Wales receives for Welsh language programming). We are fully aware of the important role that BBC Cymru Wales plays in providing Welsh language content; and of course this should continue.

## **Cross-Party Statement on Broadcasting**

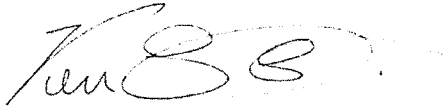
As reflected in the statement jointly signed by three party leaders in the National Assembly for Wales on 10 July, there is significant concern about the challenges facing BBC Cymru Wales and S4C due to funding pressures.

The Welsh Government and the National Assembly for Wales expects the BBC to stand by its own public statements that the deal announced on 6 July between itself and the UK Government in relation to the licence fee will be cash neutral for the BBC and will not affect services. The statement noted assurances from the BBC's management that this 'cash flat' deal will not therefore, impact on budgets at either BBC Cymru Wales or at S4C.

The statement expressed concern that neither the Welsh Government nor the National Assembly were consulted before this deal was reached and that it was undemocratic that the UK Government and the BBC made decisions behind closed doors and outside of the BBC Charter renewal process.

I look forward to providing a further update on these issues during my appearance before the Committee on 16 September

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ken Skates', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Ken Skates AC / AM**

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

# Agenda Item 3

16 September 2015– Papers to note cover sheet

Paper No:	Issue	From	Action Point
<b>Public papers to note</b>			
4	Renting Homes (Wales) Bill	Dame Rosemary Butler AM, Presiding Officer	Correspondence to the Chair providing information on – General principles of the Renting Homes (Wales)
5	Local Government (Wales) Bill and the Armed Forces Community Covenant	Minister for Public Services	Additional information following the meeting on 2 July 2015
6	Renting Homes (Wales) Bill	Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty	Welsh Government Response to the Committee’s Stage 1 report



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**Y Fonesig Rosemary Butler AC**  
**Dame Rosemary Butler AM**

Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau, Cydraddoldeb a Llywodraeth Leol  
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee  
CELG(4)-21-15 Papur 4 / Paper 4



Lesley Griffiths AM  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty  
Welsh Government  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Your ref:  
Our ref: PO/RB/AEJ

9 July 2015

*Dear Lesley*

During the debate on the General Principles of the Renting Homes (Wales) Bill in Plenary on 7 July, Members raised questions around whether the Bill complies with the European Convention on Human Rights. Such concerns were also raised in the Communities, Equalities and Local Government and Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committees' reports on the Bill.

On two occasions during the debate you referred to my statement on legislative competence at the time of the Bill's introduction as evidence that the Bill complied with the human rights requirements.

You will be aware that my view on competence at the start of the legislative process is based on the information I have before me, ie the text of the Bill and the Explanatory Memorandum. It is the role of our committees to examine Bills in detail, to consult widely and to improve them through amendment. Given the complexity of the devolution settlement, it is perfectly proper for that detailed examination to raise issues of competence, including of compliance with the European Convention on Human Rights.

I do not expect the view that I give prior to introduction of a Bill to be used by the Government, or any other Member, to constrain that detailed scrutiny or as justification for a particular position.

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg/We welcome correspondence in both English and Welsh

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Llywydd  
Presiding Officer



I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Communities, Equalities and Local Government Committee, the Chair of the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee, and the First Minister.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary".

**Dame Rosemary Butler AM  
Presiding Officer**



Our ref: LF/LA -/0705/15

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair, Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

11 August 2015

Dear Christine,

Thank you for your letter of 13 July regarding Local Government reform and the Armed Forces Community Covenant.

You have asked for further information on the process for finalising the map. My announcement on 17 June provides further clarity on the future configuration of Local Authorities in Wales and sets out our preference for the future structure in South, Mid and West Wales while facilitating further discussion around North Wales. There is now an informal opportunity over the summer for people to provide us with their views.

In publishing these maps, we are conscious there has not, to date, been an opportunity for members of the public, interested organisations and stakeholders to put forward their views formally on our current proposals. In view of the nature of the changes being proposed, it is right that formal consultation is built in and that this formal consultation should be set in the context of the whole of the Local Government Reform Programme. We therefore intend to consult on the map as part of the Draft Local Government Mergers and Reform Bill which will be published in November.

The intention is for the Draft Bill to reflect that there are currently two preferred options for the configuration of Local Authorities in Wales – 8 or 9 new Local Authorities. Alongside the draft Bill, we will publish a consultation document which will set out a range of issues associated with the proposed mergers and will invite views on the future configuration of Local Authorities in Wales. It will then be for the Government after the May 2016 elections to take forward local government reform and mergers including the necessary legislation. This would of course be subject to Assembly scrutiny.

Turning to the Armed Forces Community Covenant, the information you have requested is outlined below.

*An outline of what the Armed Forces Community Covenants have specifically achieved in Wales since 2011.*

All 22 Local Authorities in Wales have signed a Community Covenant, showing their commitment to the Armed Forces Community, and dedicated champions and lead officers in Local Authorities and Health Boards have been appointed to raise awareness of and promote the Community Covenant amongst their networks. The Community Covenant

Champions events that we hold biannually in Wales provide the opportunity for all Armed Forces Champions, third sector organisations and the MoD to come together to network, determine improvement of joint services, share best practice and information. It is evident the collaboration, signposting and cross-organisational networking taking place is making activity under the Community Covenants real, and provide an opportunity for joining up services.

In terms of specific achievements since 2011, a number of Local Authorities have undertaken work to gain a better understanding of the needs of the Armed Forces Community in their locality. Public workshops were held in Anglesey and Conwy and needs assessments were undertaken in Newport and Denbighshire. A majority of Local Authorities established local and regional forums and worked on improving information. On-line information has been developed in Caerphilly, Denbighshire, Swansea and Wrexham with a help-line set up in Ceredigion. Specific projects include the provision of mentoring opportunities in Anglesey, working with the Royal British Legion on the information hubs and in Wrexham developments with First Choice Housing on the delivery of supported accommodation for ex-forces personnel.

At the recent Champions Event held on the 14 May in Wrexham, Local Authorities provided case studies and spoke about their achievements, namely awareness raising in Caerphilly, proposals for Veteran housing in Wrexham and support for Afghan translators in Monmouthshire. Local Authorities are also supporting charities such as Royal British Legion, including the establishment of advice and information hubs and outreach locations. These locations are a tangible example of the Community Covenant in action as the establishment of a number of the hubs have been achieved as a result of joint working between the Legion and Local Authority partners via local Community Covenant groups.

*Details of any discussions you have had with the UK Government about the delivery of Community Covenants in Wales.*

I met with Anna Soubry MP in December 2014. Discussions included support for the Armed Forces Community and the Community Covenant funding. I have yet to meet with her successor Mark Lancaster MP. However, I will be writing to him as part of the review of the Package of Support. My officials regularly engage with the Ministry of Defence Covenant team and attend the UK Covenant Reference Group.

*Details of any evaluation that has been undertaken by the Welsh Government of the support it provides to the armed forces, including any areas for improvement identified by any such evaluation.*

Officials are engaging with the MoD on Armed Forces Covenant measurements, reviewing existing data and identification of evidence gaps, taking on board the information from the Integrated Household Survey and the RBL Household Survey. Discussions held with our partners at the Expert Group and Armed Forces Champions Event have resulted in the development of a National Framework for Wales. This will provide us with stronger and more effective communication and governance structures. It will also enable us to disseminate information and share good practice to the Armed Forces Community in Wales. 160 Infantry Brigade and Headquarters in Wales has taken the lead in its development, adopting a partnership approach to achieve a framework that is fitting for all.

*Whether the Welsh Government's package of support will be renewed at its existing level in the autumn.*

I intend to refresh the package of support during the summer. This will include taking on board feedback and views from stakeholders to ensure we target resources where needed. I also see the review as an opportunity for us to explore the benefits the Armed Forces bring to our communities.

I can confirm the refresh will not result in a reduction in the level of our commitment and support to the Armed Forces community in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leighton Andrews". The signature is written in a cursive style. Below the signature is a long, thin horizontal line that tapers to a point on the right side.

**Leighton Andrews AC / AM**  
Y Gweinidog Gwasanaethau Cyhoeddus  
Minister for Public Services



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: LF/LG/0792/15

Christine Chapman AM  
Chair  
Communities, Equality and Local Government Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

27<sup>th</sup> August 2015

Dear Christine

## **Renting Homes (Wales) Bill**

Thank you for your letter of 14 July seeking a response to each of the recommendations contained in the Committee's Stage 1 report. Please find below responses to each recommendation in the order of the report.

### **Recommendation 1**

I welcome both the Committee's recommendation and the agreement by the Assembly of the general principles of the Bill.

### **Recommendation 2**

The approach adopted in the Bill, enabling consequential amendments and repeals to be made by way of subordinate legislation, as part of Bill implementation, follows the common practice with other Assembly Bills. I would also have some concerns around the danger of amendments being missed or not fully considered were they to be produced at this late stage.

### **Recommendation 3**

I am content the Explanatory Memorandum accurately reflects the costs for training resulting from the Bill. However, I will consider further whether this position has altered following the completion of Stage 2.

#### **Recommendation 4**

I note the Committee's recommendation and I am considering whether this does provide greater clarity on whether the position of the contract-holder has been improved.

#### **Recommendation 5**

I am content to consider applying the affirmative procedure in relation to regulations relating to fundamental terms as these represent the primary rights and responsibilities. I believe the negative procedure is more appropriate for supplementary terms.

#### **Recommendation 6**

I understand the Committee's aim. However, I believe this recommendation would disadvantage contract-holders. For example, verbally agreed additional terms in favour of the contract-holder would not be included in a default model written statement. Therefore, it could be in a landlord's interest to fail to issue a written statement allowing less favourable terms for the contract-holder to automatically apply. I also have concerns that such an approach would introduce a considerable degree of legal uncertainty about the status and application of contractual terms which had been agreed between the parties. In the event of a dispute over terms for which written statements had not been issued, the parties would still need to seek resolution in the courts.

#### **Recommendation 7**

I note the Committee's recommendation and can assure members of the Committee further consultation on the model contracts will be undertaken, including consultation directly with contract-holders.

#### **Recommendation 8**

A central aim of this Bill is to require written statements of contracts are issued to all contract-holders. While good progress is being made on addressing digital inclusion, I am concerned the recommendation would impact on people who are unable to access the internet or unable to use it; for example, some people living in rural areas, some older people.

#### **Recommendation 9**

I believe the negative procedure is more appropriate. There will be occasions where the model written statements will need to be updated as swiftly as possible, for example to reflect a change in common law.

#### **Recommendation 10**

I agree with the Committee's recommendation and confirm guidance on joint contract-holders' rights and responsibilities will be provided.

### **Recommendation 11**

I have listened carefully to the comments of those supporting the current position in the Bill and those seeking the re-instatement of the moratorium. I do not believe evidence has been provided showing landlords will seek to agree shorter fixed terms in general. While understanding the Committee's concerns, I continue to believe removing the moratorium will encourage good landlords to rent to those they currently consider as high risk. This will help prevent these individuals being driven towards rogue landlords and poorer quality housing, and it will also help to prevent homelessness, which can sometimes require the use of Bed & Breakfast accommodation. Notwithstanding the removal of the moratorium, landlords will still wish to retain contract-holders for as long as possible as it does not make business sense for them to create churn and voids within their properties.

### **Recommendation 12**

The proposals within the Bill around retaliatory eviction have been carefully considered to address the issues of disrepair and fitness for human habitation, while ensuring a landlord who meets his or her obligations is not disadvantaged. Widening the provision beyond what is proposed within the Bill could potentially result in all genuine possession claims being contested. Any potential inability of landlords to gain possession through a landlord's notice would be likely to impact negatively on investment within the private rented sector in Wales.

### **Recommendation 13**

I consider the Bill as drafted is fair as it strikes the correct balance, enabling a contract-holder to defend a landlord's notice where a previous complaint exists.

### **Recommendation 14**

The Bill as drafted provides for greater notice for contract-holders of a rent increase than applies at present. Current law provides for a minimum notice period of one month before the first rent increase whereas the Bill provides for a minimum notice period of two months.

For example, where a one year fixed term standard contract ends and has become a periodic standard contract, the Bill allows for a rent increase to take place subject to the two months' notice. Further increases are then limited to an annual basis.

### **Recommendation 15**

The Bill already places a limit of one rent increase in a 12 month period under periodic standard and secure contracts.

### **Recommendation 16**

I have listened to and understand the Committee's concerns in this area. However, I still consider supported standard contracts require the ability for temporary exclusions to take place, albeit in a limited and controlled manner. Such exclusions are essential in order for providers to act swiftly to protect residents and staff from serious harm. Removing this provision would make the supported standard contract unworkable in many instances and present a barrier for some people being accommodated in the sector.



### **Recommendation 17**

As I stated in Committee, I consider guidance is necessary. Therefore, I have tabled an amendment to make provision for the Welsh Ministers to issue guidance to landlords on the exercise of the power to temporarily exclude contract-holders. I will consider how such a review process can be included within this guidance.

### **Recommendation 18**

I am happy to consider how such a requirement can be included within the guidance to be issued.

### **Recommendations 19 and 20**

I am unclear how these recommendations would improve current law. The ability for 16 and 17 year olds to rent needs to be extended to the private sector for it to be effective. As I have previously said at Committee, those aged 16 and 17 can get married, pay taxes, join the armed forces and some consideration is being given to extending the vote to this age group. I therefore consider enabling 16 or 17 year olds to rent a home in their own name, where a landlord is willing, to be a positive and progressive development in the law.

### **Recommendation 21**

I have considered very carefully the Committee's view but I do not consider any amendment is necessary. Both human rights and Equality Act defences are pleaded in possession claims and the provisions in the Bill do not remove those rights.

### **Recommendation 22**

The Bill does not make specific provision for a contract-holder to recover expenses in respect of estate management grounds A and B of Schedule 8. This is because compensation in these circumstances is payable to a contract-holder under section 29 of the Land Compensation Act 1973.

### **Recommendation 23**

Section 152 is a fundamental provision which is therefore incorporated as a fundamental term of each contract, allowing for termination by the mutual consent of both parties. Whilst this mutual consent can be placed in writing (should the parties wish) it is not a requirement under the Bill. The section recognises the ability of both parties to end the contract by consent at any time rather than insist upon formal notices. In doing so, the Bill recognises the contract no longer has effect when occupation is given up by the contract-holder. However, should the contract-holder not give up occupation for some reason, the Bill makes provision for substitute occupation contracts.

A formal written notice is required under the Bill for any party wishing to leave the contract unilaterally. Therefore, an amendment requiring a mutual consent agreement to be in writing would likely bind the parties and work against a contract-holder who had changed their mind.

## **Recommendation 24**

The purpose of section 214 is to ensure that the review of a landlord's decision is taken by the same court as the one to which the possession claim has been brought. It brings together the ability to consider all the relevant matters, as opposed to having to apply to set aside a possession notice in a county court pending determination of a judicial review claim in relation to the decision to make the claim in the High Court. If a contract-holder seeks a review under section 214(3), the court will consider that issue. If it considers the decision to make the claim was incorrect (etc.), it may then dismiss the possession proceedings. Section 214 allows for the efficient consideration of a landlord's claim and a contract-holder's claim as part of the same proceedings. The contract-holder will be a party to the landlord's possession claim and therefore in a position to decide whether to apply for a review of the landlord's decision.

## **Recommendation 25**

An amendment of this nature would extend the Bill beyond housing law. It would be inappropriate for someone's actions away from the dwelling or locality to lead to eviction.

## **Recommendation 26**

I would have concerns in raising the standard too high and too quickly as doing so would adversely affect the private rented sector. In the light of my statement during Committee, I have tabled an amendment to broaden the regulation-making power. This will allow this regulation-making power to be used on a progressive basis to raise standards.

## **Recommendation 27**

Fitness for human habitation is the appropriate definition as it is a well-established legal concept which is well understood by the housing sector and courts.

## **Recommendation 28**

I accept this recommendation and I am happy to place such a requirement on the face of the Bill.

## **Recommendation 29**

These regulations for determining whether a dwelling is fit for habitation will contain a substantial amount of detail and I do not consider the affirmative procedure to be appropriate. The negative procedure is best suited to regulations of this type. The regulations made by the Welsh Ministers under section 2 of the Housing Act 2004 relating to Category 1 and Category 2 hazards, to which the regulations under section 94 will refer, are similarly made under the negative procedure.

## **Recommendation 30**

I have already tabled an amendment broadening the regulation-making power which will enable regulations to be made in respect of the fitting of carbon monoxide detectors, smoke detectors and periodic electrical safety testing in all rented properties.

### **Recommendation 31**

I am considering the use of existing regulation-making powers under the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 in this regard. This approach would identify specific provisions in the Bill as being relevant to determining whether an applicant for a licence under Part 1 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 is a fit and proper person.

### **Recommendation 32**

It would not be practical to make provision in the Bill for definitive timescales for repairs. There will always be instances where repairs cannot reasonably be undertaken within set timescales. The Code of Practice being introduced under Part 1 of the Housing (Wales) Act 2014 refers to landlords carrying out repairs within a reasonable timescale.

### **Recommendation 33**

The Bill already provides significant powers for the court to address where landlords have not carried out the necessary checks and investigations, including making any order it sees fit. Additionally, failing to follow the correct procedure would render the recovery of possession unlawful and a landlord could be prosecuted under the Protection from Eviction Act 1977.

### **Recommendation 34**

I agree with the Committee and will provide guidance on the use of the abandonment procedure for landlords.

### **Recommendation 35**

The purpose of the abandonment provision is to enable a landlord to regain possession of an abandoned property quickly and without the need for a court order, provided possession is recovered in accordance with the statutory provisions. This recommendation would remove the ability for landlords to regain possession any more quickly than is currently possible under the court process. As the abandonment procedure is likely to be used by community landlords in the main, I would be eager to see such properties re-let as quickly as possible.

In situations where abandonment is clear and obvious, properties may also be left unsecured and subject to vandalism, thus requiring landlords to act swiftly. In addition, cases of abandonment are not always associated with rent arrears.

### **Recommendation 36**

Whilst such an amendment may initially have some attraction, the Residential Property Tribunal for Wales does not have the necessary capacity to deal with such disputes. Building in such capacity would be costly and would need to be fully considered and consulted upon.

### **Recommendation 37**

The Explanatory Memorandum will be reviewed in light of Stage 2 proceedings and amended accordingly.

I trust this response is helpful and look forward to appearing before the Committee on 30 September.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping 'L' and 'G'.

**Lesley Griffiths AC / AM**

Y Gweinidog Cymunedau a Threchu Tlodi  
Minister for Communities and Tackling Poverty

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# Agenda Item 7

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

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