

The Rt. Hon Lord Hall of Birkenhead CBE
Director General of the BBC
BBC Broadcasting House
Portland Place
London W1A 1AA

16 February 2017

Dear Lord Hall,

The Big Picture – The Committee’s Initial Views on Broadcasting in Wales

You will be aware that the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee recently published a report which sets out our initial views on broadcasting and the media in Wales. We’d like to thank you again for informing this work by appearing before the committee on 2 November 2016.

The report made a number of recommendations, we have included below those which pertain to the BBC.

‘Recommendation 1. We recommend that the BBC Director General should provide an additional £30 million annually for English language drama and broadcasting about Wales.’

‘Recommendation 2. We recommend that there should be no reduction in the current proportion of network spending in Wales, and that it should do more to reflect and portray Welsh society and perspectives.’

‘Recommendation 3. We support a Wales news opt-out for Radio 2 and Radio 1 and recommend that the BBC provides the necessary funding to bring this about.’

‘Recommendation 4. Given our concerns about the possible unintended consequences of the approach the BBC has adopted, we recommend that the BBC should critically review their plans to embed BBC journalists in local media organisations. As an alternative to embedding journalists, we recommend that the BBC considers investing in a ‘wire’ type service to provide local news that can be used by local media organisations on matters where local reporting has declined, such as local court and council reporting.’

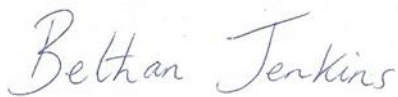


'Recommendation 5. We recommend that the Welsh Government should withhold its consent to the appointment of the new BBC Board member for Wales until there has been an opportunity for the Committee to hold a pre-appointment hearing with the UK Government's nominee for the post.'

We'd be grateful if you could respond to these recommendations by close of play on 13 March 2017, in time for the Assembly's debate, both on the report and the Welsh Government's response to it.

To note, we are also sending a copy of this letter to Rhodri Talfan Davies for information.

Yours sincerely,



Bethan Jenkins AM

Chair

