

Huw Jones  
Chair, S4C Authority  
Parc Tŷ Glas  
Llanishen, Cardiff  
CF14 5DU

19 October 2016

Dear Mr Jones

Thank you to you and Ian Jones for attending the Committee's meeting on 6 October and for answering Members' questions.

The Committee has discussed your evidence and has asked that I write to you to pursue two matters in particular.

Firstly, the Committee noted from both your evidence and that of Rhodri Talfan Davies, who gave evidence later in the day, the high degree of creative and collaborative joint-working between S4C and the BBC in the wake of the move to fund S4C from the license fee.

At the meeting, it was suggested that it would not be appropriate for a representative of the BBC unitary board to sit on the S4C authority. The Committee hoped that the strong ethos of collaborative working that you, Ian Jones and Rhodri Talfan Davies described would continue whatever the formal institutional relationships between you and the BBC. I would be grateful for your assurance that you remain committed to this approach, whatever changes arise from the new Charter and the review and that there is no return to the more client-partner relationship that may have existed before.

The second issue concerns S4C's accountability to the National Assembly. We were of course very pleased at your readiness to appear before us and noted your willingness to answer our questions. Committee Members were, however, firmly of the view that while funding responsibility for S4C, and for broadcasting in general, may currently lie elsewhere, there is a need for S4C to have a degree of formal accountability to the National Assembly.

This is no doubt an issue that will be considered as part of the coming review. However, the Committee would be grateful if the S4C Authority could confirm that it agrees with the proposition that S4C should be formally accountable to the National Assembly for its activities and should, for example, be subject to the



requirement to lay annual reports and accounts before the Assembly, and be scrutinised on them by Assembly Committees, in the same way that now applies to the BBC.

I am copying this letter for information to Rhodri Talfan Davies and to Alun Davies AM Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language.

Yours sincerely

*Bethan Jenkins*

**Bethan Jenkins AM**

**Chair**

