

Rhun ap Iorwerth

Aelod o'r Senedd dros Ynys Môn
Arweinydd Plaid Cymru

Member of the Senedd for Ynys Môn
Leader of Plaid Cymru

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Annwyl Gadeirydd,

I write following a meeting of your committee last week when you took evidence from the UK Government's Minister of State for Media and Data, Sir John Whittingdale MP as part of your work on public service broadcasting in Wales.

As you are aware, during a discussion on the broadcasting of major sporting events on free-to-air TV, my colleague Llyr Gruffydd MS took the opportunity to ask the Minister whether he had looked at the "relative importance of rugby to us here in Wales, and how that could be better reflected in broadcasting rights."

This was a timely discussion due to growing concerns that more rugby games will be shown behind paywalls, as was the case with the rights to the Autumn Internationals being bought by Amazon.

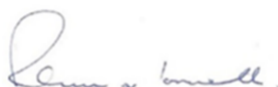
I was heartened by John Whittingdale's comments that should the Senedd argue very strongly that the issue of listed events should be looked at again, then the UK Government would do so.

In that spirit, I have written to the other Group Leaders in the Senedd, inviting them co-sign a cross-party appeal, making representations to this end to the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport in Westminster. I enclose a copy of the letter for your awareness.

I would be grateful if the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee could also allocate time to discuss this matter and explore all feasible options for ensuring that the Senedd makes the strongest possible statement in favour of ensuring that all major rugby matches are available on free-to-air TV.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yr gywir,



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Aelod o'r Senedd - Ynys Môn – Member of the Senedd



Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament