



Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport
and International Relations Committee
Senedd Cymru

15 November 2023

Dear Delyth,

I would like to thank the members of the Committee for their report '*Wales-Ireland Relations: Exploring an old relationship in a new age*' following the conclusion of their inquiry into Wales-Ireland relations.

Wales and Ireland are the closest of neighbours and have built a strong and positive relationship on age-old connections and a deep cultural understanding. Our modern and vibrant relationship has grown from historic links, common heritage and culture, and close people-to-people, business, cultural and sporting connections.

Since the launch of the Shared Statement and Joint Action Plan, we have supported a range of partnerships, initiatives and policy exchanges across all six areas of cooperation, as well as delivering a number of government-organised events to foster collaboration and closer working relationships across Wales and Ireland.

The Committee's report attracted interest at the Wales Ireland Forum held last month in North Wales. It was an important opportunity to continue this relationship and these partnerships. The Forum focussed on renewable energy, skills, study and language and the arts.

I have set out my response to the report's individual recommendations below. It is important to remember that the Shared Statement is an agreement between the Welsh and Irish governments. We are jointly responsible for delivery and, therefore, some of the recommendations in the report will require consultation with, and the agreement of, the Irish Government.

Yours sincerely,

MARK DRAKEFORD

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Mark.Drakeford@llyw.cymru

Correspondence.Mark.Drakeford@gov.wales