



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

29 January 2024

Dear Delyth,

I am responding to your letter of 20 December on Baden-Württemberg (B-W).

Wales's relationship with Baden-Württemberg is long-standing; the Statement you refer to updates our co-operation in a government-to-government form and focusses on future activity.

In accepting Recommendation 11 we specifically noted that, *"Each international relationship is different and developed in collaboration with international partners. Therefore, a templated approach to this may not be the most effective model for delivery. The Welsh Government will consider the findings of the Committee Report when developing, or adopting, a similar Shared Statement approach for other priority international relationships."*

Our agreement with the B-W government does not follow a detailed or formal action plan. Instead, we have agreed to use our Statement as a platform to respond to opportunities as they arise across six priority areas:

- I. Bilateral engagement
- II. Trade and Entrepreneurship
- III. Science and Research
- IV. Education and Youth
- V. Culture and Communities
- VI. Environment and Climate Protection

In practice, each relationship with our partners is unique. We collaborate to produce a form of collaboration which best suits the needs of both partners and respective ways of working; some are short and strategic while others are longer and detailed.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Our officials are working with their B-W counterparts to develop a programme of activity for 2024-25 to ensure that the Statement is actively delivered. Once this programme has been agreed, we will be happy to share with you an overview of key events and activities.

As set out in a previous letter to the Committee on 7 December 2022, we do not publish the full details of the MOUs but, at the Committee's request, we have established a webpage which summarises each agreement instead.

I hope this response is helpful – I am copying to Vaughan.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**MARK DRAKEFORD**