

Mark Drakeford MS  
First Minister  
Welsh Government

09 February 2024

## **The UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage**

Dear Mark,

At our meeting on 24 January 2024, we considered the first of our International Relations quarterly monitoring reports, and discussed the UK Government's plans to ratify the UNESCO Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.

To assist our further consideration of this matter, the Committee would be grateful to receive the following information:

1. The Welsh Government's view on:
  - a) the UK's ratification of the Convention;
  - b) the value and benefits of UK membership to Wales; and
  - c) intangible cultural heritage it would like to see included in the inventory, and why.
2. What plans are in place for the Welsh Government to collate its own inventory.
3. Whether the Welsh Government has suggested intangible cultural heritage for inclusion, and the rationale for their inclusion.

4. Whether the Welsh Government supports the inclusion of the examples listed in the [UK Government press release](#), such as the Nos Galan road races, 3am carol singing, Mari Lwyd, St David's Day, the Royal Welsh Show, St Dwynwen's Day and Eisteddfodau.
5. Whether existing inventories could be used, such as the one maintained by Museums Galleries Scotland.
6. How the Welsh Government has worked with the UK Government to prepare for ratification and the frequency of this joint working.
7. The Welsh Government's involvement to date on the UK's international obligations in this area, including international cultural agreements such as this Convention.
8. How the Welsh Government has contributed to the design of the public survey that forms part of the UK Government's consultation.
9. Whether additional resources will be required to collate and maintain a Welsh inventory, and what these are.
10. What arrangements are in place to ensure monitoring and compliance of the Convention's obligations.
11. How the Welsh Government will ensure that the provenance of intangible cultural heritage is unique to Wales as much of our cultural heritage and traditions have shared roots with Celtic peoples from across Europe.

Finally, and in the context of this discussion, we would be grateful to understand what the Welsh Government's view is relating to calls for St. David's Day to be designated a national public holiday.

I would be grateful for your response by 08 March 2024. I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee for information.

Yours sincerely,



**Delyth Jewell MS**  
**Committee Chair**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.