

Mark Drakeford MS
First Minister of Wales
Vaughan Gething MS
Minister for Economy
Welsh Government

09 February 2024

Year of Wales and India

Dear Mark and Vaughan,

At our meeting on 24 January 2024, we considered the Welsh Government's plans for a year-long celebration of Wales in India during 2024.

The Committee welcomes the Wales in India campaign and would like to know more about this area of the Welsh Government's International Relations work - especially in the light of the challenging financial climate in which the Draft Budget 2024-25 has been set, and the potential effects on what can be delivered. We would be grateful for your responses to the following questions:

1. Could you provide the Committee with more information about the Welsh Government's plans for the year of Wales in India 2024, including planned activities and timescales?
2. What lessons from previous 'Wales In' years are being taken on board for Wales in India 2024?
3. During 2024-25 Draft Budget scrutiny, the Minister for Economy and Minister for Rural Affairs told the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committee that the Welsh Government's trade programme will be reduced due to budgetary pressures. We understand that this would mean taking part in fewer trade missions overseas, and potentially increasing virtual activity. How has the Welsh Government reconciled this with the First Minister's statement that the focus of Wales in India will be on 'developing trade and investment links, soft power and NHS health links'?

4. Could you confirm the draft budget allocation for Wales in India 2024 and whether this has been reduced?
5. What impact, if any, has the revised approach set out by the Ministers to ETRA Committee had on planning for Wales in India?
6. In light of reductions to relevant budgets, how will the Welsh Government balance Wales in India activities with other international activities, including with its priority relationships, as listed in the International Strategy?
7. Could you confirm whether there are current plans for Ministerial overseas visits to India?

I would be grateful to receive a response by 08 March 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.