



Delyth Jewell MS
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations
Committee
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2 July 2024

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter of 13 June 2024 about the Rennes Declaration.

The Rennes Declaration was signed last year at the inaugural Celtic Forum. The Declaration is not a formal agreement in the sense of the Memoranda of Understanding and Shared Statements that we have signed with other countries and regions. Instead, it sits within the tradition of ending a formal event - in this case the Celtic Forum - with a declaration. The Declaration was driven by the Brittany President in his capacity as Forum host and was developed, and finalised, during the course of the Forum.

In the spirit of being an informal agreement to look at working more closely together on areas of mutual interest, the Declaration does not contain a formal action plan or commitment to any deliver any specific activity. Instead, it is more about an intention to strengthen cooperation and deepen regional relationships.

As a result of this being a Declaration to work together, rather than a more formal output-driven Agreement, there are no specific priority areas, but rather an agreement on potential areas for collaboration. These include maritime activities; education and training; mobility enhancement; promotion and mutual knowledge of heritage; renewable energy; cultural relations; languages; economic relations in innovation and research; and diaspora.

Following the Celtic Forum, each partner committed to advancing some of this work. Wales is responsible for the cultural relations element, primarily through the Celtic Trail; a proposed heritage trail based on our shared history of the Celtic Saints. We have formed an expert group and network to explore opportunities in cross-border heritage, culture, and tourism.

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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.

We have committed to publishing summaries of the cross-cutting international bilateral agreements on the Welsh Government website. An oversight meant that the summary of the Alabama International Friendship Pact was not published, but this was rectified immediately on receipt of your letter.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Kerala and Wales is solely focussed on Health, delivered by the Health department, and does not meet the criteria of being a cross-cutting bilateral agreement; therefore, a summary will not be published on the International Relations pages of the Welsh Government's website. The web page has been updated to reflect and clarify that the bilateral agreements on this page are those that are delivered across government, coordinated by my International Relations team, rather than single policy agreements.

Yours sincerely,

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

VAUGHAN GETHING