

Eluned Morgan MS

First Minister

Welsh Government

23 December 2024

## **Welsh Government International Relations**

Dear Eluned,

Further to your appearance before the Committee for the Scrutiny of the First Minister on 13 December 2024, we would welcome some additional information on the following points to inform our international relations work:

### **International Strategy**

During the meeting, we discussed the fact that you did not intend to undertake a refresh of the International Strategy early next year, but would instead focus resources on a delivery plan "...to make sure we land what we said we're going to land."

- It is understood that the delivery plan is still in development. Could you provide a timeline for the delivery plan?
- Would the Welsh Government provide a briefing to the Committee on the delivery plan?

During the meeting, you acknowledged the Committee's role in scrutinising the Welsh Government's delivery of the International Strategy. You also committed to provide detailed information in the annual report to allow the Committee to meaningfully assess the Welsh Government's progress in this field. We would ask:

- Whether the Welsh Government intends to outline its progress against the 270 actions supporting the International Strategy, as well as accompanying actions plans, in the annual report.



- If this is not the intention, we would ask what metrics will be used to monitor and report on delivery of the International Strategy, and how they will improve transparency and visibility for the public.

In his [letter to the Committee of 1 August 2024](#), the former First Minister discussed the International Strategy's cross-government approach. He said "...there are different delivery teams with responsibility for delivering the activity".

- Could the Welsh Government confirm the number of delivery teams which are active in delivering the International Strategy, and in which directorates they operate?

### Implementation Review of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

In the aforementioned letter, the former First Minister also drew our attention to the creation of an EU and Trade working group, and stated "...officials have begun to explore where we think any potential changes to the TCA could benefit Wales in the longer term". Four priorities for the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) review have already been given by the Former Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles MS, and former Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice, Lesley Griffiths MS, who [wrote to the Committee](#) on 20 June.

- Could you confirm if further priorities have been identified?

In the [international relations scrutiny session](#) on 19 June, the Committee agreed to a Welsh Government technical briefing about the TCA implementation review, which the letter says will be "at the start of the Autumn term".

- Could a date for this briefing be provided to the Committee?

### 'Wales In' Years

The former First Minister advised us that officials would share further details about the independent evaluation of the 'Wales in France' year.

- Could you share this information?

In his letter, the former First Minister noted that "alignment to UK and international priorities and programmes is crucial to increasing reach, securing additional funding streams and ownership".

- Could you confirm what engagement there has been with the UK Government as part of the planning process for Wales In 2026?

The former First Minister noted that, "to date, the focus has been on countries where we have a presence in overseas markets. As the programme grows, an increased emphasis on monitoring and evaluation will further develop these criteria".

- How have the findings of evaluations to date influenced plans for 'Wales In' years, including future locations?

### Wales Representative in Europe

- Can you provide an update on the future of the role of the Welsh Government's representative in Europe?

We would be grateful for a response to the issues raised in this letter by 24 January 2025.

Yours sincerely,



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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.