

ENGLISH VERSION BELOW

Cyfeillion - A charaid choir - Friends

Ysgrifennaf atoch fel arweinyddion gwleidyddol parthed y penderfyniad i atal gwrandawyr rhyngwladol rhag clywed BBC Sound, gyda sylw penodol i'r sawl sy'n medru'r Gymraeg a Gàidhlig.

Er y bydd Radio 4 a World Service yn dal i'w clywed yn fyd-eang, na fydd Radio Cymru na Radio nan Gàidheal ar gael, naill ai'n fyw neu -ac yn holl bwysig i gynulleidfaoedd ar draws y byd – 'ar-alw'.

Dylid nodi hefyd y byddai Radio Wales a Radio Scotland yn diflannu yn sgîl y penderfyniad hwn.

Fel cynhyrchydd "Rhaglen Cymru", podlediad wythnosol, a gynhyrchir yn Canberra, sy'n ymwneud â darlledu, yr wyf wedi bod wrth'n gohebu ar y sefyllfa ers y cyhoeddiad wythnos ddiwethaf

I'ch cynorthwyo, yr wyf wedi cynnwys dolenni i erthyglau o'm eiddo yn Gymraeg a Saesneg.

Gweler uchod hefyd, dolenni i ddatganiad y BBC am BBC Sounds, ac yr wyf hefyd wedi atodi datganiad a ddanfonwyd ataf ar ôl i mi ofyn tri chwestiwn penodol.

Mae'r penderfyniad hwn wedi dod fel sioc ac fe ddaeth yn gwbl di-rybudd. Dim ymgynghoriad o gwbl.

Gofynnaf i chi yn daer – cynrychiolwyr pleidiau gwahanol – ystyried godi'r mater gyda'r BBC a Bwrdd y BBC.

Er gwybodaeth yr wedi cysylltu âg aelodau seneddol yn San Steffan am y sefyllfa hon.

I am writing to you about the impending cessation of BBC Sounds services to international audiences, with particular reference to the impact of this decision on Welsh and Gaelic speaking members of the diaspora.

Whilst Radio 4 and World Service will still be available once the decision is implemented, Radio Cymru and Radio nan Gàidheal will no longer be available live or on-demand. The latter is especially important to those dwelling in many time zones.

I also note, this decision will also remove Radio Wales and radio Scotland from a global audience.

As the producer of a Welsh-language media podcast produced in Canberra, I have been reporting on this situation since the news broke last week.

To assist you, I include links to articles (in Welsh and English) where I am featured.

I also include the BBC's announcement about the looming geo-block, and a statement sent to me by the BBC in response to three direct questions about the decision.

This decision has come, certainly to the Welsh-speaking diaspora, without warning or any consultation.

I note you are from different parties but would ask that you urgently consider raising this matter with the BBC and its board.

FYI I have contacted Westminster MPs from Wales and Scotland about this situation.

Andy Bell

Canberra, Awstralia

Podlediad/Podcast: <https://rhaglencymru.podbean.com/e/diweddariad-helynt-bbc-sounds/>

Erthygl BBC Cymru Fyw article :

<https://www.bbc.com/cymrufyw/erthyglau/c0l1nd2zg53o>

Erthygl Nation Cymru article: <https://nation.cymru/opinion/why-the-bbc-is-cutting-off-wales-and-the-welsh-language-to-the-wider-world>

QUESTIONS ASKED BY ANDY BELL TO THE BBC PRESS OFFICE IN LONDON & RESPONSE FROM BBC CARDIFF

I note reports that BBC Sounds will be "ending access to international users beginning Spring 2025 (sic)". This decision would remove access to Welsh and Gaelic language output from tens of thousands of expatriate Welsh & Scottish people. As the producer of a weekly Welsh language podcast on media I have a number of questions.

- 1) Was there any discussion with BBC Cymru/Wales & BBC Alba/Scotland about the impact of this decision?
- 2) Did the unique circumstances of Welsh & Gaelic broadcasting form any part of the decision-making process?
- 3) In light of the impact of this decision, will there be any review of its consequences to the diaspora?

RESPONSE – Original Welsh and my translation

Dywed llefarydd ar ran y BBC: "Yn dilyn lansiad yr ap newydd a BBC.com, bydd BBC Sounds ar gael i gynulleidfaedd y Deyrnas Unedig yn unig a bydd y gwasanaeth ar gyfer defnyddwyr rhyngwladol yn dod i ben ddechrau'r Gwanwyn. Bydd defnyddwyr sy'n mynd ar wyliau (y tu allan i'r Deyrnas Unedig) am gyfnod byr yn parhau i allu defnyddio ap BBC Sounds dramor gan gynnwys mynediad i BBC Radio Cymru. Ni fydd newidiadau i BBC Sounds y tu hwnt i'r Deyrnas Unedig yn effeithio ar y gallu i wrando ar Radio Cymru ar unrhyw lwyfannau amgen (trydydd parti)."

A BBC spokesperson said: Following the launch of the new BBC.com app, BBC Sounds will be available to UK audiences only and the service for overseas users will come to an end at the start of spring. Users who go on holiday (outside the UK) will continue to be able to use BBC Sounds overseas, including access to Radio Cymru.

The changes to BBC Sounds beyond the UK will not affect the ability to listen to Radio Cymru on any alternative platforms (third party)

YMHOLIDAU GAN ANDY BELL I SWYDDFA'R WASG Y BBC YN LLUNDAIN A'R YMATEB FROM

Dyma'r cwestinyau, wedi'u cyfiethu o'r Saesneg gan fod 'na dim modd cysylltu â'r swyddfa'n Gymraeg trwy'r ffurflen ar-lein.

UN – A oedd 'na drafodaeth gyda BBC Cymru a BBC yn Alban ynglyn ag effaith y penderfyniad hwn?

DAU – A wnaeth sefyllfa unigrwr eithoedd Cymraeg a Gaeleg gael unrhyw sylw wrth wneud y oenderfyniad hwn

TRI – O ganlyniad I'r effaith y bydd y penderfyniad hwn yn ei gael a fydd 'na arolwg o'l sgîl-ffeithiau ar y diaspora.

Dyma'r ymateb a gafwyd trwy law BBC yng Nghaerdydd,

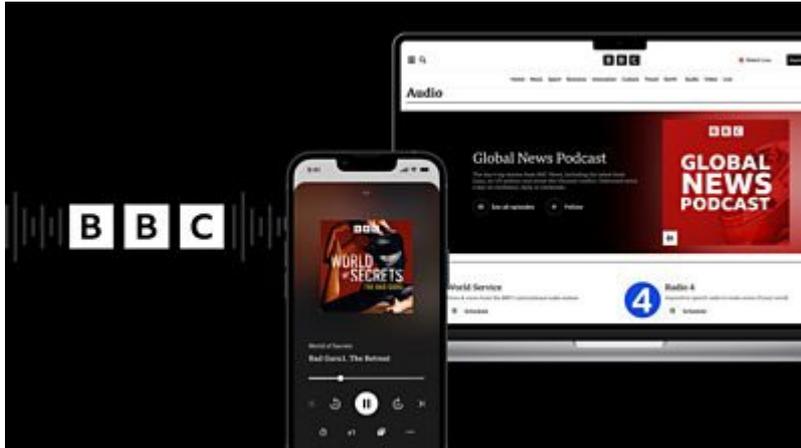
Dywed llefarydd ar ran y BBC: "Yn dilyn lansiad yr ap newydd a BBC.com, bydd BBC Sounds ar gael i gynulleidfa oedd y Deyrnas Unedig yn unig a bydd y gwasanaeth ar gyfer defnyddwyr rhyngwladol yn dod i ben ddechrau'r Gwanwyn. Bydd defnyddwyr sy'n mynd ar wyliau (y tu allan i'r Deyrnas Unedig) am gyfnod byr yn parhau i allu defnyddio ap BBC Sounds dramor gan gynnwys mynediad i BBC Radio Cymru. Ni fydd newidiadau i BBC Sounds y tu hwnt i'r Deyrnas Unedig yn effeithio ar y gallu i wrando ar Radio Cymru ar unrhyw lwyfannau amgen (trydydd parti)."

DATGANIAD I'R WASG GAN Y BBC/BBC PRESS RELEASE

BBC Studios to make podcasts available to international audiences via BBC.com and the BBC App

Newly launched audio section will make the BBC's vast portfolio of current and archived podcasts easier to find

Published: 02:00 pm, 24 February 2025



Fans of BBC podcasts outside of the UK now have an all-new listening experience on BBC.com and the BBC app. The newly launched audio section of BBC.com and app is curated with international audiences in mind, making the BBC's vast portfolio of current and archived podcasts, including hits like Global News Podcast, World of Secrets, and Infinite Monkey Cage, plus BBC Radio 4 and World Service radio stations, easier to find.

For the first time, audiences globally can enjoy a fully integrated experience on BBC.com and the app where the BBC's award-winning audio content sits alongside our renowned journalism and storytelling. Through this new user experience, listeners can explore deeper context and analysis on select topics, gaining a richer understanding of the issues that matter most—all without leaving the platform.

As part of this launch, the BBC will also be making BBC Sounds available exclusively to UK audiences and ending access to the service for international users beginning Spring 2025. UK users who go on holiday (outside the UK) for a short period of time will still be able to use the BBC Sounds app abroad.

This new audio experience is the latest in a series of enhancements that we have been making to BBC.com and the BBC app. Stay tuned for more updates as we continue to build a single, one-stop destination for the best of BBC journalism and storytelling.

BBC Studios is responsible for the monetization of digital news and factual products including BBC.com, the BBC app, BBC Select and BBC Podcast Premium, whose profits help continue to fund the BBC's world-renowned journalism and reporting.