



Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/FM/0361/25

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

21 July 2025

Dear Delyth,

Following my appearance at the Annual Scrutiny session on 18 June, I am pleased to enclose the first of our quarterly updates on progress against the International Delivery Plan (IDP).

As this is the first update, I would welcome feedback on the report's format and content to ensure that it is fit for purpose. However, I would like to reiterate the points that I made during the session about having limited resources within the International Relations team, so I would like you to ensure that any refinements are reasonable and do not detract from the core delivery of the IDP.

You will note that there are varying levels of information against each of the 15 deliverables, this is due to a focus on the economy during this quarter. You will also note that, due to commercial restrictions and security considerations, we are unable to provide an update on the Wales Investment Summit at this time. However, please accept my assurances that my officials are working hard on the Summit's delivery, securing the right level of delegates and speakers, and we are already receiving interest from companies who have been approached about attending later this year.

Similarly, external restrictions placed on the Welsh and UK governments by the Office for National Statistics prevent us from reporting detailed information around Wales's foreign direct investment figures and an update on these will be provided in line with the ONS timetable.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Eluned Morgan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Eluned Morgan

International Delivery Plan – Committee Update – Quarter 1

In April, the International Delivery Plan was published, marking the beginning of a significant year for Wales on the global stage. The plan outlines 15 key focus areas for delivery across the next 12 months. This first quarterly report highlights early activities and achievements.

Economic Growth

Driving economic growth remains central to our international efforts. Welsh Government teams in Wales and overseas delivered eight trade missions, enabling 67 delegates to access key markets, strengthen ties, and forge new commercial relationships; alongside supporting over 150 export projects. We participated in numerous national and international events to promote collaboration and attract investment in Wales's priority sectors, laying the foundations for the Wales Investment Summit.

At the political level, our North America team - in close partnership with industry - hosted a dedicated briefing in the U.S. Congress to showcase Wales's world-leading compound semiconductor sector and its exceptional skills and capabilities. This was reinforced by articles in the Wall Street Journal broadening awareness of Welsh strengths among a wider and influential American audience increasing visibility of the investment opportunities that exist in Wales for U.S. companies in this sector.

Wales and Japan 2025

The Wales and Japan 2025 launch went viral reaching millions globally with the initial focus on deepening economic ties. In preparation for, the Wales Investment Summit later this year, we held a Wales Investor Showcase in Tokyo in April, hosted by the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, bringing together over 150 leading Japanese entrepreneurs and businesses to explore opportunities for long-term collaboration in areas where Wales excels - such as renewable energy and digital transformation. We hosted our first "Wales Day" at Expo 2025 in Osaka with over 1000 visitors experiencing Welsh culture, food and drink. In June, we hosted a Wales Health Tech Day to showcase Wales's health tech sector to over 100 guests, led by the Chief Medical Officer. Delivered in partnership with the UK Government's Department for Business and Trade, the event highlighted Welsh innovation and promoted international trade, investment, and collaboration.

Additionally, 20 companies participated in both Expo and the Japan Health Exhibition. Participants engaged with leading research and innovation institutions across Japan strengthening existing partnerships and creating new opportunities for collaborations across research, development and investment.

To mark the halfway point of the Wales and Japan Year, the First Minister and Japan's Ambassador to the UK co-hosted a business event at the Japanese Embassy in London, bringing together existing Wales-based Japanese companies to advocate for Wales to prospective new investors. Work is underway to strengthen and build on these relationships, ensuring long-term benefits for Wales including further activity involving the Japanese Ambassador.

Health Outcomes

In Wales, there has been a focus on improving health outcomes. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care hosted a two-day policy dialogue in Cardiff, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Health Organisation. This attracted high-level attendees including Ministers and senior officials from the governments of Iceland, Finland and Scotland. The event supported our commitment to improving health outcomes at home and overseas by sharing best practice, strengthening collaboration, and promoting whole-government approaches to health and well-being.

In May, Cardiff hosted the EUREGHA General Assembly, enhancing Wales's visibility and fostering European collaboration on health priorities. This also provided an opportunity to demonstrate unique Welsh approaches to an international audience, such as how the Well-being of Future Generations Act requires sustainability and long-term thinking to be embedded in health policy decision-making.

Climate and Environment

This quarter, we prioritised our international climate and environmental ambitions. Following last year's successful Circular Economy Hotspot in Wales, the Deputy First Minister visited Latvia to learn about its successful deposit return scheme, identifying areas of best practice for a similar system to be introduced in Wales. The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning hosted a delegation, led by the Lieutenant Governor of Utah, keen to learn from Wales approach to renewable energy as part of their aim to diversify their energy mix. The visit was a direct outcome of our North America team's engagement with Utah following the installation of a statue of America's first female senator - Llandudno-born Martha Hughes Cannon - in Statuary Hall, Washington D.C.

At Marine Energy Wales, a £2 million investment in tidal energy firm Inyanga Marine Energy Group was announced, supporting the First Minister's Green Growth agenda. At Global Offshore Wind in London, Wales's offshore wind strategy and our supply chain companies were featured. At Wind Europe in Copenhagen, the First Minister joined a panel on grid infrastructure, met companies aligned to national investment priorities, and promoted supply chain capabilities to over 15,000 industry professionals.

The Deputy First Minister represented Wales at the Under2 Coalition European Ministerial meeting in Brussels - the world's largest network of subnational governments committed to achieving net zero by 2050. The meeting focused on the role of regions in shaping international climate policy ahead of COP30, demonstrating Wales's leadership in shaping global climate policy.

The Welsh Government teams in Brussels and Wales hosted a 30-strong international delegation from Portugal, Spain, France, Ireland, and Canada on a visit to North Wales as part of the TRANSATLANTIC project, advancing international collaboration around green corridor initiatives and the decarbonisation of ports and maritime transport, whilst promoting innovation in the circular blue economy through sustainable and resource-efficient practices.

The Deputy First Minister delivered a speech at the 3rd UN Ocean Conference, highlighting Wales's pioneering work in developing national ocean literacy strategies supported by the Well-being of Future Generations Act. The event showcased the transformative impact of this approach, attracting international attention, with several countries looking to learn from Wales's leadership in these areas.

Education Partnerships

The International Delivery Plan commits to enhancing education partnerships and outcomes. Wales secured the hosting two major international events in this period: the International Congress on School Effectiveness and Improvement and a peer learning event with the OECD. These events enabled educators to present to international audiences with immediate outcomes including the exchange of insights and best practices, and longer-term impacts expected through collaborative projects. Delegations from Ireland and Denmark joined Welsh stakeholders to explore international learning. A debrief from the OECD will inform future policy development.

The Welsh Government's team in India has been supporting Wales's further and higher education sectors by partnering with Global Wales to deliver events and visits that promote Welsh universities. Recent collaborations between the Bengal Chamber of Commerce and universities in Bengal explored opportunities for student mobility and research partnerships with Welsh institutions. Meanwhile, the Welsh Government Office in Canada recently hosted a visit by Colegau Cymru to Montreal, supporting their international engagement efforts

Sports Diplomacy

Following the announcement that the Tour de France will come to Wales for the first time in 2027, attention has turned to the Women's European Football Championships in Switzerland. 16 projects were awarded funding through a £1m Partner Support Fund which has seen partners across Wales come together through our Tîm Cymru model of diplomacy to raise our profile, identity and culture across Wales and beyond. Highlights that have attracted global attention have included a Cardiff mural dedicated to Welsh football's Jess Fishlock - the first pitch-sized mural to a female football player in Europe - and AmdaniHi! an S4C led event that celebrates the role women have played in shaping our nation. This activity has been supported by *Perthyn* an internationally focused digital media campaign which tells stories of those with Welsh connections to an international audience. There has also been a focus on impacts within Wales. One supported project saw the British Council Wales produce a classroom pack for young people Ewro25 to explore Europe, gender equality and languages as well as celebrating the tournament.

Global Responsibility

Wales reaffirmed its international commitment to peace and solidarity by supporting Academi Heddwch in hosting the 'Gwireddu' Peace Petition Conference in Aberystwyth, bringing together volunteers from Wales and the United States to mark the centenary of the Women's Peace Petition and explore how its legacy can inspire future generations. At the conference, the First Minister announced additional funding for Academi Heddwch, enabling it to advance peace education and research initiatives. This support will deepen engagement with schools, communities, and international partners, further strengthening Wales's role in global peacebuilding and facilitating new academic and diplomatic collaborations.

Officials in Paris also secured UNESCO UK's patronage of the Urdd's Message of Peace and Goodwill, which recognises the message's alignment with the global values of UNESCO. Additionally, our Middle East offices facilitated dialogue on a potential partnership between Academi Heddwch and Georgetown University in Qatar, laying the groundwork for future academic collaboration and peace-focused initiatives.

Wales continued its international development efforts with two successful International Learning Opportunities placements in Eastern Uganda, focusing on waste management and healthcare improvement in a rural hospital. A new round of small grants was launched to support organisations within the International Development and Solidarity sector to improve lives internationally and here in Wales.

Case Study - Wales and Ireland

Wales and Ireland share a strong relationship built on economic, cultural, linguistic, and policy ties. In 2021, the first Ireland-Wales Shared Statement was launched to maintain close cooperation post-Brexit. Building on that foundation, the First Minister and the Tánaiste launched the updated Ireland–Wales Shared Statement 2030 in July, reflecting evolving priorities and a renewed commitment to collaboration.

The revised agreement broadens its scope, expanding the Climate and Sustainability priority to include Energy and Environment, and enhancing Education and Research by including Innovation. These updates reflect both the progress made and the opportunities ahead. The new statement outlines the significance of priority areas, sets shared objectives, and our approach to delivery. It is action-oriented and is underpinned by a governance model designed to ensure that Wales–Ireland relations deliver tangible benefits for people in both nations. The annual Ministerial Forum will provide a platform to assess progress and agree strategic priorities for the year ahead.

At the 2025 Wales Ireland Forum, where the new statement was launched, Aerospace Wales demonstrated how Agile Cymru funding enables Welsh SMEs to build new partnerships in Ireland, resulting in reciprocal visits and sustained collaboration at major global aerospace events.

The forum also heard an update from the CEO and Director of Maresconnect an energy infrastructure company deploying a subsea electric interconnector between Wales and Ireland. The £1b project will create 250 full time roles during the three-year construction and will support energy security and put downward pressure on consumer pricing. The project is a tangible example of the collaboration between Ireland and Wales to deliver a low carbon future.

Recent joint activities have continued to strengthen cultural and economic ties. Welsh writers participated in the Cúirt International Literature Festival in Galway, while representatives from Cardiff Capital Region and Tramshed Tech visited Dublin to inform digital cluster planning. No Sleep Dance Theatre delivered a workshop and performance in Wexford, and a cultural event in London - co-hosted with the Irish Embassy - celebrated shared creativity and heritage.

Annex A – Summary Progress Table, aligning activity to the International Delivery Plan’s Goals.

| Deliverable | Activity |
|--|--|
| Wales Investment Summit | Commercial and security sensitivities prevent reporting at this time. |
| Inward Investment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Officials have participated in national and international events, including Money2020, BIO USA and the Paris Airshow, to promote investment and encourage collaboration across Wales’s priority sectors. - The Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Energy and Planning hosted an investor showcase at Expo 2025 in Osaka, highlighting opportunities priority Welsh sectors. - The First Minister and Japanese Ambassador co-hosted an event focused on engaging existing and potential Japanese investors and showcasing Wales’s investment landscape. |
| Supporting Welsh business | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Eight trade missions have been delivered enabling 67 delegates to access key markets - 150 export projects have been supported. |
| Wales and Japan Year | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Wales Investor Showcase was hosted in Tokyo. - The first “Wales Day” was held at Expo 2025 in Osaka, attracting over 1,000 visitors showcasing the Welsh culture. - Welsh innovation in health tech was promoted at a major event in June, led by the Chief Medical Officer. 20 Welsh companies were enabled to engage directly with Japanese markets through participation in Expo and the Japan Health Exhibition. |
| Climate and environmental ambitions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Deputy First Minister visited Latvia to explore best practice for a deposit return scheme and participation in the Under2 Coalition meeting in Brussels to shape global climate policy. - Wales’s renewable energy leadership was promoted through hosting a Utah delegation. - A £2 million tidal energy investment was announced at Marine Energy Wales. - Offshore wind capabilities were showcased at major international events in London and Copenhagen. - Global partnerships in the Blue Economy were strengthened by supporting an EU TRANSATLANTIC visit to North Wales. - Welsh ocean literacy innovation profiled at UN Ocean Conference. |
| Sports diplomacy | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Welsh identity and culture was promoted through events in both Wales and Switzerland, including a mural in Cardiff honouring Jess Fishlock - the first pitch-sized mural dedicated to a female footballer in Europe. - The role of women in Welsh society was celebrated through the S4C-led AmdaniHi! The First Minister met with a prospective investor during her visit to Switzerland in support of the Welsh Women’s football team. |

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| Perthyn | - The Perthyn Campaign is ongoing. As part of the Euro2025 tournament, a video sharing the story of Wales Head Coach Rhian Wilkinson was shared across social media. |
| Team Cymru | - The Tîm Cymru/Team Wales model has been used during the Women's European Football Championships in Switzerland. |
| Collaboration with the UK government | - A high-profile event for the Welsh health tech sector was hosted at Expo 2025 in Osaka in partnership with the Department for Business and Trade. - We have been actively contributing to the design of the UK Government's Soft Power strategy. We have participated in the FCDO led Ambassador Roadshow, hosting UK Ambassadors to France, Belgium and Oman in Wales to showcase Wales and areas of Welsh excellence. |
| European engagement | - Wales hosted the EUREGHA General Assembly. - The Deputy First Minister attended Under2 Coalition in meeting in Brussels. We have hosted two UK Government Ambassadors to European countries as part of the FCDO's Ambassadorial Roadshow. |
| Awareness of Wales | - North America offices worked with industry partners to host a dedicated briefing in the U.S. Congress to spotlight Wales's world-leading compound semiconductor sector. - Hosted Wales Day at Expo Osaka. - Participated in the FCDO-led Ambassador Roadshow, hosting UK Ambassadors to France, Belgium and Oman in Wales to showcase Wales and areas of Welsh excellence. |
| Multilateral engagement | - WG France team worked with UNESCO UK to achieve a first-ever patronage of the Urdd's Message of Peace and Goodwill. |
| Improving outcomes at home | - 'Gwireddu' Peace Petition Conference supported in Aberystwyth. - Laid groundwork for future academic collaboration between Academi Heddwch and Qatar's Georgetown University. |
| Health outcomes | - A health focussed trade mission took 20 companies Japan to participate in both Expo and the Japan Health Exhibition. The Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care hosted a two-day policy dialogue in Cardiff, as part of the Memorandum of Understanding with the World Health Organisation. |
| Education | - Student delegations from North America have visited to learn about our international approach. - A peer learning event with the OECD was hosted in Cardiff, focused on national leadership in education welcoming delegations from Ireland and Denmark. - Wales sponsored and participated in the International Congress on School Effectiveness and Improvement. - WG teams in the US, Canada and India have supported further and higher education sectors to establish and deepen partnerships. These collaborations are enhancing institutional links, facilitating academic exchange, and strengthening the quality and reach of Wales's education offering. |