



Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/FM/0362/25

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 recent appearance at Committee, I am pleased to provide responses to the actions that were raised during the session and further questions not reached within the allotted time. These are attached at Annex A.

The first quarterly report on the International Delivery Plan has now been sent to you and this sets out the activity undertaken over the first quarter to action the 15 deliverables.

Since my appearance at Committee, Members will be aware that the Welsh and Irish Governments have signed a new Shared Statement and I am pleased that my officials were able to provide the Committee with a technical briefing on this. This follows a previous briefing on the International Delivery Plan. I am very happy to facilitate these oral briefings which provide additional detail and insight to support your understanding and work. I have previously offered that my officials who head our regions across the globe have a session with you to explain the role and activities undertaken across our Overseas Network.

Yours sincerely,

Eluned Morgan

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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.

Annex A

Actions

- a) *The First Minister agreed to write to the Committee outlining the Welsh Government's plans for the Euros.***

A [Written Statement](#) was published on 4 July 2025 which sets out how we are using the Women's European Championships to promote Wales and Welsh culture in Switzerland.

- b) *The First Minister agreed to share a list of visits/meeting with EU institutions that have been undertaken by members of the Government.***

A list of visits and meetings with EU institutions is shown at Annex B.

- c) *The First Minister agreed to write to the Committee explaining how an international relations concordat can be developed.***

There is already the [Concordat](#) in place which sets out how the United Kingdom Government and the Welsh Ministers will cooperate with respect to international relations. This recognises that international relations, and relations with the European Union, remain the responsibility of the UK Government and the UK Parliament. However, the UK Government recognises that the Devolved Governments will have an interest in international and European policy making in relation to devolved matters, notably where they may be required to implement actions.

This Concordat was published in 2013, and officials from across the UK and Devolved Governments are considering a potential timing of an update to the Concordat. The issue of the Concordat, and the framework for engagement with the Devolved Governments on international matters, is expected to be considered as an agenda item for a future Interministerial Standing Committee (IMSC).

- c) *The witnesses agreed to write to the Committee setting out what impact the Committee's 'Culture Shock' report has had on the Welsh Government.***

We welcome the Committee's 'Culture Shock' report and its ongoing commitment to supporting the role of culture in Welsh international relations. I have included, alongside this letter, an update on our implementation of the report's recommendations (Annex C). Since the Committee published its report, we have invited Wales Arts International to sit on the Trade Policy Advisory Group to provide specialist sectoral advice, published our Priorities for Culture which recognises the role culture plays in our international relationships, and agreed an Ireland-Wales Shared Statement 2030, which includes culture as a key theme.

Questions Not Reached

Delivery

1. *During the evidence session, the First Minister reiterated a commitment made on 9 June in correspondence to review the International Strategy's 270 actions over the summer and provide analysis to the Committee in the autumn. Could you provide more specific timings for when the Committee can expect to receive the final report?*

This is an important task, not just in terms of reporting to Committee, but as part of understanding the impact of the International Strategy. To that end, we plan to write to Committee with an analysis of the actions by the end of 2025. This allows time for focus on delivery on key activity such as the International Delivery plan and the Investment Summit, whilst also ensuring it is analysed to an appropriate level.

International Delivery Plan

2. During our inquiry, we found low levels of awareness and engagement in the development of the International Delivery Plan (IDP). Could you explain on what basis its 15 aims were selected and how they were developed?

The International Delivery Plan extends the overarching International Strategy with its core aims to raise the profile of Wales, grow the economy and establish Wales as a globally responsible nation.

As such, there was no direct consultation on the International Delivery Plan. However, our Team Cymru model of diplomacy means that we regularly engage and involve our partners in our work. The Plan was developed out of this regular genuine engagement and meaningful involvement, and I was pleased to hear some of this reflected in the evidence provided to Committee.

3. The First Minister has offered to provide quarterly reports to this Committee on the delivery of the IDP, starting this month. Could you confirm if the reports will be structured around each of the IDP's 15 aims and the Strategy's three objectives?

The quarterly report will outline delivery against the 15 aims and provide an analysis of the impact during the quarter. I am keen that we find the most suitable way to report to you and welcome your feedback. Much of the delivery over the first quarter will relate to more than one of the deliverables and this is important as we look to maximise impact. The quarterly report has been issued under separate cover.

Budget

4. The Welsh Government has allocated almost £49m to international relations and international development during the Sixth Senedd. As the Strategy comes to an end, how are you assessing whether this has been value for money?

As we discussed in Committee, nations, regions and cities across the world try to respond to the challenge of measuring the impact of international relations activity, however it is activity that is widely undertaken.

Where we can measure, we can clearly understand impact. During the Strategy's lifetime there have been 215 investments made by foreign-owned companies which have created and safeguarded more than 20,000 jobs, whilst businesses in Wales have secured more than £370m of new export business as a direct result of Welsh Government export support.

We have also placed significant emphasis on building good relations to create the right environment to collaborate across a range of issues. This is difficult to measure but I would argue that our extensive work in Japan to build good relations with a range of stakeholders across business, tourism, culture, sport and language facilitated the right conditions for a highly impactful Wales and Japan Year.

During the 2022 Qatar World Cup, activities took place across our overseas network to raise Wales' profile. Events were held across the USA, including a business event in Washington DC, to mark the Wales vs. USA group match. Following an initial meeting at the Games Developers Conference earlier in the year, a gaming company was invited to attend the DC event where it was able to hear more about Wales' skills in gaming and tech and continue conversations started in San Francisco. Through continued sustained engagement with our US team and Creative Wales, the company announced its intention to base its European Headquarters in Cardiff, having not previously considered Wales prior to their engagement with Welsh Government's Overseas Network. This investment led to 50 high quality jobs in the gaming industry and demonstrates how sports diplomacy can lead to tangible outcomes; however, the outcomes are not always this easily measurable.

Furthermore, technology company Vishay, invested £51m in a compound semiconductor facility in Newport. This project was identified by our Washington DC team, who worked hard to build the relationship with the company's headquarters, The DC overseas network team saw the potential and pursued the project, maintaining the relationship with the company throughout to ensure an effective route into government which eventually resulted in a multi-million pound investment and many hundreds of jobs.

The funding for international activity has been used to support our ambition to be a globally responsible nation. We have focussed on demonstrating global leadership in a number of areas to share our learning but to also improve outcomes at home. In the field of sustainable development, the 10-year anniversary of the Well-being of Future Generations has seen Wales inspire a historic commitment by the United Nations. Last year, global leaders signed the Declaration on Future Generations in New York to safeguard the well-being and needs of future generations. Closer to home, our successful bid to host the Circular Economy Hotspot, saw around 400 delegates come from across the world to learn from our transformational success in areas such as recycling. Following this, the Deputy First Minister has subsequently visited Latvia to learn from their approach to a Deposit Return Scheme and how this could work in Wales.

Much of our international work has been focussed on facilitating exchanges to make a difference. The Taith Programme has already awarded funding to allow over 15,000 people to learn, study and volunteer all over the world. Last year, the Wales in India Year, saw an agreement reached with the Chief Minister of Kerala that has seen 300 health professionals recruited to the Welsh NHS. As part of our Wales and Japan focus this year and the UN International Decade of Indigenous Languages, we have been developing links with the indigenous Ainu community to share our work. This has seen engagement from Welsh Government officials and strategic partners to share our work on Cymraeg 2050 and other initiatives.

Spending in Wales is relatively modest when compared to other areas. The Scottish Government International Relations and European Affairs budget was £26.7m in the last financial year alone and this does not cover the totality of its international work.

5. The Welsh Government provided breakdowns of the current budget allocations for international relations activity on 9 June, six months after the Committee's budget scrutiny window. Are you content that there is now sufficient time available to ensure that money is spent strategically in this financial year?

I am pleased to report that last year, we achieved a near full spend. This is a significant step forward as we move away from the underspends that marked the Covid years and the recovery from the pandemic. There are some fluctuations that we cannot control which do impact on our spends such as invoicing from the FCDO in relation to Overseas Network

costs and staffing changes. However, I am confident that with this approach to budget management and a strong Team Cymru approach to our activity we will be able to report a full, or near full, spend again this year.

6. The allocations follow the structure of previous budgets. Could you explain how they align to the IDP?

The International Delivery Plan provides focus for our activity. It also sees the continuation of the International Strategy to the end of this Senedd Term. This is continuity rather than a change to our approach. This effectively means that the existing budgetary set up is aligned to our Delivery Plan. Some of the Delivery Plan actions are directly accounted for, such as the Wales and Japan Year, and other budget lines, such as the funding for Strategic Partners will support other areas of focus including the Team Cymru approach.

Annex B

Minister	Who they met	Date	
Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething	Minister for Economy, Energy and Innovation Eddy van Hijum, East Netherlands (Vanguard)	December 2021 – Meeting was online	Reactive
Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething	Jeannette Baljeu, Regional Minister of the Province of South-Holland (Vanguard)	December 2021 – Meeting was online	Reactive
Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething	Cristina Uriarte, Commissioner for Science, Technology and Innovation, The Basque Government Marian Elorza, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs, The Basque Government (Vanguard)	December 2021- Meeting was online	Reactive
First Minister Mark Drakeford	Evelyn Regner MEP, VP of the European Parliament	March 2022	Proactive
First Minister Mark Drakeford	Bernd Lange MEP, Chair of INTA Committee	March 2022	Proactive
Minister for Education & Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles	EP CULT Committee – Information Session on Taith	October 2022	Proactive
MEWL Jeremy Miles	Sean Kelly MEP	October 2022	Proactive
MEWL Jeremy Miles	Jens Geier MEP	October 2022	Proactive
MEWL Jeremy Miles	Viktor Negrescu MEP	October 2022	Proactive
First Minister Mark Drakeford	Younous Omarjee MEP, Chair of REGI Committee	March 2023	Proactive
First Minister Mark Drakeford	Katarina Barley MEP, VP of the European Parliament	March 2023	Proactive
First Minister Mark Drakeford	Jan Jambon, Minister-President of Flanders	March 2023	Proactive
Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething	Jan Olbrycht MEP	April 2023	Proactive
Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething	Younous Omarjee MEP, Chair of REGI Committee	April 2023	Proactive

Minister	Who they met	Date	
Minister for Economy, Vaughan Gething	REGI Committee, European Parliament - <i>Exchange of views with the Minister for Economy of Wales, Mr Vaughan Gethin, on the Brexit and the cooperation of Wales with the EU</i>	April 2023	Proactive
Deputy Minister Social Partnerships, Hannah Blythyn	Agnes Jongerius MEP	October 2023	Proactive
Deputy Minister Social Partnerships, Hannah Blythyn	EESC President	October 2023	Proactive
First Minister Mark Drakeford	Jan Jambon, Minister President of Flanders	February 2024	Proactive
Deputy First Minister, Huw Irranca-Davies	Under2 Coalition meeting	June 2025	Reactive
DFM Huw Irranca-Davies	Séamus Boland, Incoming EESC President	June 2025	Proactive

Annex C

Update on implementation of recommendations from the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee's 'Culture Shock' report, July 2025

Recommendation 1

We call on the Welsh Government to support the recommendation made by the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly in December 2023 (see paragraphs 58 and 59 of this report), and to use all available levers to encourage the UK and EU to progress its actions.

Response: Accepted

Update: We continue to use all available levers to encourage the UK Government and the EU to ease the difficulties faced by creative sector workers. We welcome the recent re-set in relations between the UK and EU and the announcement of the UK-EU Common Understanding Agreement. We particularly welcome the announcement made by the UK and EU governments at the summit on 19 May to establish a mutual commitment to negotiating a youth experience scheme. Such a proposal will ensure that young people can enjoy the social, cultural and educational benefits gained from living, working and/or studying in each other's countries.

Recommendation 2

We call on the Welsh Government to set out what guidance and support it provides to creative workers on cross-border working post-Brexit. The response should include detail on what information is available on its website, the role of its export support and overseas offices, and any funding provided to third parties for advice services.

Response: Accepted

Update: We set out the guidance and support provided by the Welsh Government in our response to the Committee's recommendations in December 2024.

Recommendation 3

We call on the Welsh Government to provide its assessment of Brexit's impact on the culture sector in Wales.

Response: Rejected

Update: No further update.

Recommendation 4

We call on the Welsh Government to set out what steps it has taken to mitigate the effect of Brexit on the sector, including the financial implications, and what steps it will take in future, in response to this report.

Response: Accepted

Update: We set out the steps taken by the Welsh Government in our response to the Committee's recommendations in December 2024.

Recommendation 5

We urge the UK and EU to prioritise new arrangements for creative workers in the upcoming implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with a view to progressing the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly's recommendation on touring artists.
Response: Accepted

Update: We welcome the recent re-set in relations between the UK and EU and particularly welcome the announcement of a mutual commitment to negotiating a youth experience scheme. We believe such a scheme could potentially benefit young artists, as it is generally younger, less-established artists who face the greatest challenges when touring with increased costs, time limits, and bureaucracy resulting from EU exit. However, we recognise that further discussions are needed about supporting touring artists and we will continue to raise this matter with the UK Government.

Recommendation 6

We call on the Welsh Government to include cross-border creative work as a priority in a clear, coherent strategy setting out its ambition for UK-EU and Wales-EU relations.

Response: Rejected

Update: No further update.

Recommendation 7

We call on the Welsh Government to provide its current views on how Wales is represented in UK-EU governance structures in response to this report.

Response: Accepted

Update: We provided the views of the Welsh Government in our response to the Committee's recommendations in December 2024.

Recommendation 8

We call on the Welsh Government to champion these issues at intergovernmental meetings. It should take practical steps, such as suggesting the following as standing agenda items until the situation improves:

- *improving post-Brexit arrangements for creative workers, including via the upcoming TCA implementation review; and*
- *UK association to Erasmus+ and Creative Europe.*

The Welsh Government should report to this Committee at least once a term on relevant intergovernmental discussions on these specific matters for the remainder of the Sixth Senedd

Response: Accepted in part.

Update: The Welsh Government has continued to champion the issues highlighted in this report at intergovernmental meetings, most recently at the Inter-Ministerial Group for Trade on 2 June.

We welcome the announcement in the UK-EU Common Understanding Agreement to work towards association to the Erasmus+ programme on much better financial terms for the UK.

Recommendation 9

We call on the Welsh Government to confirm what data and evidence it is using to inform decisions in this area, including to include touring artists as a priority for the implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement.

Response: Accepted

Update: We confirmed what data and evidence the Welsh Government uses to inform decisions in this area in our response to the Committee's recommendations in December 2024.

Recommendation 10

We call on the Welsh Government to provide its assessment of how its priorities for the implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement will address all of the elements that need to work together to facilitate cross-border creative work.

Response: Rejected

Update: No further update.

Recommendation 11

We support the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee's call for the establishment of a new Welsh Government advisory group on UK-EU relations. This should include representative bodies from the culture sector.

Response: Rejected

Update: The Welsh Government has reviewed the membership of its Trade Policy Advisory Group (TPAG), and we have invited Wales Arts International to be a member of the group to provide specialist sectoral advice.

Recommendation 12

We call on the Welsh Government to set out how it has engaged with stakeholders on the matters covered by this inquiry since January 2021, including key findings and steps taken in response.

Response: Accepted

Update: We set out how the Welsh Government has engaged with stakeholders in this area in our response to the Committee's recommendations in December 2024. The Welsh Government has invited Wales Arts International to be a member of the Trade Policy Advisory Group (TPAG) to provide specialist sectoral advice.

Recommendation 13

We call on the Welsh Government to incorporate the Committee's findings into its future culture and international relations strategies.

Response: Accepted

Update: In May 2025, we published our Priorities for Culture which recognises the integral role culture plays in how Wales establishes and develops formal and informal international relationships with other regions and countries. The Welsh Government expressed its goal for culture to be represented and embedded in how we promote Wales to the world. Priorities for Culture set out the ambitions that:

- Culture has a high profile in how our nation is marketed to visitors and in how we establish and develop international relationships.

- The profile of culture is raised by celebrating and promoting culture at a local, national and international level.

Recommendation 14

We call on the Welsh Government to maintain a dialogue with the Irish Government on this issue as part of their ongoing and future cooperation, and to scope, where possible, what additional support could be jointly provided while awaiting a UK-EU-led solution.

Response: Accepted

Update: In July 2025, the First Minister and Tánaiste of Ireland launched the new Ireland-Wales Shared Statement 2030¹. Culture is a key theme within the Statement and, within this area, there is an ambition for a strong working relationship between Wales Arts International and Culture Ireland. We will build on collaboration with the arts councils of Ireland and Wales, including through the *All In* cultural access scheme, the Northern European mobility programme, and the Beyond Border programme.

¹ [Ireland-Wales shared statement 2030](#)