

The Rt Hon Lisa Nandy MP
Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport
UK Government

29 May 2025

New Chair of S4C

Dear Lisa,

Delyth Evans appeared before the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee on 21 May 2025 for an evidence session following her recent appointment as Chair of S4C. During the session, we questioned Delyth about her priorities for S4C, as well as the main challenges facing the channel today and in the future. A transcript of the session is available on our website.

Whilst we endorse the appointment of Delyth Evans, we believe that the Committee should have had a formal involvement in the appointment of the Chair of S4C. Indeed, we had previously called for our committee, and the Senedd, to have had this involvement (which was a view supported on a cross-party basis). Whilst we recognise that broadcasting is a matter reserved to the UK Government, it is indelibly linked to a range of devolved matters including the Welsh language (which is particularly the case with S4C). It is an anomaly that powers over the only public service broadcaster operating solely in the Welsh language do not reside in the nation where that language is primarily spoken. We therefore believe that, in future, the Senedd Committee with responsibility for communications and culture should hold a pre-appointment hearing with the preferred candidate. It is our belief that the scrutiny of broadcasting, and the accountability of those tasked with running broadcasting organisations, would improve were the Senedd given a role.

We note that the Welsh Government was represented on the Advisory Assessment Panel. As was, however, stated in previous correspondence, we believe that the responsibility for making such an appointment should be held jointly between the UK and Welsh governments. In our 2024 report on [Public Service Broadcasting in Wales](#) we recommended that:

"The UK Government appointment of the S4C Chair should require the agreement of the Welsh Government. This should be accompanied by offering a Senedd

committee the opportunity to hold a pre-appointment hearing with the preferred candidate."

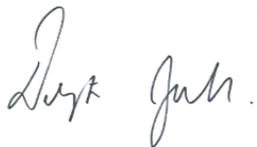
Our predecessor committee recommended, in its [Exploring the devolution of broadcasting report](#), that powers over Welsh language broadcasting, including S4C, should be devolved, and that a suitable Senedd Committee should conduct confirmation hearings for roles including the Chair of S4C. The position that a Senedd Committee should have a formal role in the appointment of the Chair of S4C is therefore a long-standing position with cross-party support in the Senedd.

These points notwithstanding, we were impressed by Delyth Evans, and believe that she is suitable for the post. We wish her well in the role and we look forward to continuing our relationship with S4C.

I would wish to take this opportunity to remind the UK Government of the importance of S4C to Wales as a nation. The channel's work over the past four decades in providing Welsh language content has been of pivotal importance, and S4C is playing a key role in the work towards achieving the target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 20250. For far too long, the future funding of S4C has been uncertain. Since 2010, the UK Government has reduced S4C's funding in real-terms by roughly 40 per cent. This is a significant reduction. It is surely the case that the only public service broadcaster that broadcasts solely in Welsh should be funded adequately, both to allow S4C to provide services across platforms, and to ensure that it can continue to play a role in supporting the 2050 target.

I am copying this letter to Geraint Evans, Chief Executive of S4C.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.