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Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee

5 November 2025

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 8 October following my appearance before the Committee on 17 September. I am providing the additional information requested by the Committee. Please see the attached document.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JACK SARGEANT". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath.

Jack Sargeant AS/MS
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol

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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.

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee: 17/09/25

Additional information from the Welsh Government

Maintenance backlog

- **The most up-to-date figures for the total capital maintenance backlog across Amgueddfa Cymru, the National Library of Wales, and other bodies supported through the Priorities for Culture.**

The information Amgueddfa Cymru provided to the Committee includes the most up to date figure on the capital requirements for its estate. Our investment decisions at Amgueddfa Cymru are informed by its buildings strategy, which is in the process of being updated and we will work closely with the Amgueddfa once it is finalised. The National Library of Wales (NLW) has not reported a backlog of work. However, we continue to work closely with NLW to identify its future capital investment priorities.

- **Details of the Welsh Government's plan for addressing this backlog, including how progress will be monitored and reported on.**

In the financial year 2025 to 2026, in addition to maintaining their capital Grant in Aid (GiA), we are providing additional capital funding to Amgueddfa Cymru and NLW for priority work to their estates. This includes additional investment for National Museum Cardiff, the National Slate Museum and for Bookstacks 1 and 2 at the National Library. Progress on capital grants and estate maintenance is monitored at the quarterly meetings with each Arm's Length Body (ALB). The draft Budget 2026-27 sets out the GiA allocation and further capital support for each ALB.

Priorities for Culture monitoring and evaluation

- **Clarity on how the Welsh Government intends to implement and monitor delivery of the Priorities for Culture.**

When launching the Priorities for Culture in May, I made it clear that I wanted the first year to focus on delivery, and to prioritise specific ambitions within the Priorities for Culture. These included ambition 4, focusing on children and young people; ambition 15, focusing on the workforce and specialist skills, and ambition 16, focusing on the sector's approaches to sustainable development. I also stated that I would be looking to support intangible cultural heritage and digital improvements.

On implementation, I have prioritised making sure that the Priorities for Culture have been embedded in operational planning at our arm's length bodies and included as criteria in our grant-making this year. For example we asked grant applicants to demonstrate how their projects would meet the Priorities for Culture including ensuring culture is inclusive, accessible and diverse, supports sustainable development, tackles the climate nature emergency, enhance good digital practice and reflects the needs and aspirations of children and young people.

We monitor progress with implementation and delivery as part of regular discussions with, and reporting from, our arm's length bodies, and in terms of project reporting for those in receipt of grants.

As stated at the Committee session, I have not ruled out developing and publishing an implementation plan in the future, but I remain convinced that our focus for now should continue to be on delivery and on making a difference to our sectors in the immediate term and using existing mechanisms to ensure partners reflect the priorities in their work.

We are approaching six months since the launch of the Priorities. I am content that in that time we have been able to demonstrate significant positive action in terms of implementation.

Marmot Nation

Strengthening ill-health prevention is a priority for Wales as set out in 'A Healthier Wales' and is also one of the eight Marmot Principles. Sport and physical activity are already one of the components in our preventative approach; being a Marmot Nation reinforces the importance of prevention in delivering better health and wellbeing for all.

The Welsh Government is working with the Institute of Health Equity (IHE), led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot, to develop and implement the Marmot Nation approach in Wales.

Broadcasting

- **An update on the progress made to date in strengthening the broadcasting framework for Wales, including any outcomes from your discussions with UK Government counterparts.**

I refer you to the record of the scrutiny session held on 17 September and the evidence paper provided prior to my attendance for detail on progress made to date. Following my positive discussion with Stephanie Peacock earlier this year, in her previous role as Minister for Sport, Media, Civil Society and Youth, I was disappointed to see the response of Ian Murray, Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts to your correspondence on a role for the Senedd in S4C board appointments. However, we continue to input into the above-mentioned areas of activity, where we are highlighting the unique needs and circumstances in Wales and making the case for a stronger voice in broadcasting matters. These conversations are identifying opportunities for joint working. For example, the joint Creative Wales / Ofcom event on the PSM review earlier this year, provided stakeholders in Wales with a direct line to the Ofcom leads for the review and the UK Government Department for Culture Media and Sport's involvement in a WCRN event in September enabled representatives from community radio stations across Wales to discuss their needs directly with the UK policy lead for radio.

- **Details of your engagement with the BBC Charter Review process, including the Welsh Government's response to the draft terms of reference.**

In line with the Terms of Engagement agreed with the UK Government on the BBC Charter Review process and the requirements set out in the current Royal Charter I have been formally consulted on the draft Terms of Reference. This is in addition to discussions held at a ministerial and official level on the review and process, which have included conversations in forums such as the Culture and Creative Inter-Ministerial Group. The findings of the expert panel on broadcasting in Wales and the five potential pathways to devolution have been raised in these discussions. I have provided detailed comments to the UK Government on the draft Terms of Reference with a view to ensure the review considers the needs of Wales and expect to continue these discussions following the publication of the Green Paper. I have discussed the review in a recent meeting with the Interim Director of BBC Cymru and I am meeting the BBC Board Member for Wales in November.

- **Any emerging views or priorities about regulatory changes, particularly in relation to the five devolution pathways identified by the expert panel.**

As noted during the scrutiny session, I will have more to say on this matter in due course.

- **An indication of when you expect to be in a position to share further details or recommendations with the Committee.**

As noted during the recent scrutiny session, I will provide an update in due course.

Community radio

- **A summary of the support provided to community radio in recent years, including any current or planned initiatives.**

Creative Wales focuses its direct support on a small number of priority sectors, namely TV, Film, Games, Animation and Music. In line with its responsibility for broadcasting and media policy, Creative Wales maintains a positive relationship with the Wales Community Radio Network (WCRN) and the WCRN is represented on the Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group. In 2024-25, following discussions with the WCRN and in response to identified needs, Creative Wales awarded £100k to the WCRN to support the ongoing activity and sustainability of Ofcom licenced community radio stations in Wales. To ensure the needs of community radio stations in Wales are considered in the development of radio policy at a UK level and to support stations to benefit from the increase in funding allocated to the Ofcom Community Radio Fund in 2025-26, Creative Wales worked with Ofcom and the UK Government Department of Culture, Media and Sport to secure attendance of the DCMS policy lead for radio and Chair of the Ofcom Community Radio Fund panel at the WCRN event in Barry on 4 September. Discussions continue between Creative Wales and the WCRN regarding future support needs.

- **Details of engagement between your office and other Welsh Government departments, particularly in relation to the inclusion of community radio in public health advertising campaigns.**

Both the WCRN and Golly Slater, responsible for Welsh Government advertising campaigns, are members of the Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group, where discussions are held regarding how best to ensure equitable and appropriate access to Welsh Government advertising contracts. Discussions are also ongoing with the UK Government regarding options to improve the measurement of community radio reach, with the aim of supporting community radio stations to bid for contracts in future.

- **Any plans you might have to ensure more consistent and strategic cross-governmental support for community radio in the future.**

Creative Wales' ongoing relationship with the WCRN and WCRN's involvement on the Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group provide an ongoing mechanism to identify opportunities to support community radio stations in Wales in a consistent and strategic way. Discussions at the WCRN event in September highlighted a range of common needs and challenges facing the sector, and conversations continue internally and with Ofcom and DCMS regarding potential future support.