

Eluned Morgan MS  
First Minister  
Llywodraeth Cymru

17 December 2025

Dear Eluned,

## **Committee scrutiny of Wales-Ireland relations**

Thank you for your letter dated 8 December. The purpose of our inquiry into Wales-Ireland relations is, in part, to assess how Wales-Ireland collaboration has evolved since our last report on this area of work was published. You will recall that one of the recommendations from our earlier report (which was accepted by the government) was that the Welsh Government should review the evidence the committee had gathered and use it to inform future decisions on priorities for Wales-Ireland cooperation post-2025. As such, and as part of our current inquiry, we are reviewing government progress and looking ahead to future collaboration.

I am copying below the Committee's recommendations which were accepted by the government in full or in principle, and would be grateful to receive an update about their implementation.

We would also be grateful if you could please respond to the following specific questions:

### General

1. Could you outline the next steps for delivery, including relevant dates such as for the 2026 Ireland-Wales Forum?

### Stakeholder involvement

2. How did the governments involve stakeholders in the renewal process, including those named in the Shared Statement 2030?
3. What opportunities will be made available for stakeholders who are not named to be involved in delivery, including in the planning meetings expected in early 2026?

## Interaction with UK and EU arrangements

4. To what extent will Wales-Ireland cooperation be enhanced by closer UK-Ireland and UK-EU relations announced earlier this year?
5. The Welsh Government said in response to our Culture Shock report that the new Shared Statement would form the basis for discussions on supporting those navigating Brexit effects in their Wales-Ireland cooperation. Could you provide an update on how this is taking place?

## Funding and budget

6. What funding will be made available by the Welsh Government to organisations delivering Wales-Ireland activity?
7. Could you confirm the Welsh Government budget allocations for Shared Statement delivery to date?

I would like to thank you for confirming that your officials will be available to facilitate our committee visit to Ireland in February 2026.

Yours sincerely,



**Delyth Jewell MS**  
**Committee Chair**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

## Wales-Ireland Relations: Exploring an old relationship in a new age

Recommendations accepted or accepted in principle by the Welsh Government:

Recommendation 1. The Welsh Government should outline the potential opportunities provided by renewed Horizon participation in response to the Committee's report.

Recommendation 2. The Welsh Government should resume publishing annual reports on the achievements of Horizon participation in Wales.

Recommendation 3. The Welsh Government should increase the visibility of Wales-Ireland relations on its website by bringing together its strategies as they relate to Ireland in one place, to include the Irish Sea Framework, the International Strategy, the Shared Statement, and information about the role of the Dublin office, by the end of February 2024. This should be accompanied by clear explanations of how each strand relates to the others, and how this is coordinated.

Recommendation 5. The Welsh Government should involve relevant civil society expertise (including the Future Generations and Welsh Language Commissioners) in its future Wales-Ireland relations work and explain how this will be done in its response to the Committee's report.

Recommendation 6. The Welsh Government should provide more information about its activities to raise awareness of its Wales-Ireland strategies amongst Welsh stakeholders in its response to the Committee's report.

Recommendation 11. Where the Welsh Government adopts a similar approach for other priority international relationships, it should build in the findings of this report from the outset.

Recommendation 12. The Welsh Government should review the evidence we have gathered and use it to inform future decisions on priorities for Wales-Ireland cooperation post-2025. These lessons should be taken forward by the Welsh Government and reapplied to its other priority international relationships in future.

Recommendation 14. As international relations policy appears indivisible from trade in respect of Wales-Ireland relations, the Welsh Government should clarify how they are coordinated across the work of government.

Recommendation 16. The Welsh and Irish governments should commit funding to Wales-Ireland relations proportionate to their ambition beyond 2025 without delay, to provide certainty to stakeholders and to ensure that opportunity costs are minimised.

Recommendation 17. The Welsh Government should provide more information on Agile Cymru, including its focus on developing new links rather than preserving existing ones and the involvement of stakeholders.