

Rebecca Evans AS/MS  
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Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

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

17 February 2026

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter requesting a final update on the Committee's 'Culture Shock' report, which comprehensively examined how the UK's departure from the European Union (EU) has impacted on our culture sector in Wales.

I hope you find the following responses helpful.

**Please could you provide an update on:**

- 1. How the Welsh Government has raised ongoing issues affecting touring artists and cross border creative work with the UK Government, and how the UK government has responded. We would be grateful if you could also confirm how this was raised by the Welsh Government, for example, at the latest Culture and Creative Industries Inter-Ministerial Group and/or at the Interministerial Group on UK-EU relations.**

The Welsh Government is using all available levers to encourage the UK government and the EU to ease the difficulties being faced by creative sector workers, particularly touring artists.

During the meeting of the Culture and Creative Industries Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG), which took place on 16 July 2025, international activity was discussed, including Creative Europe.

The IMG on UK-EU relations has met on two occasions since the UK-EU summit on the 19 May 2025 and the announcement of the UK-EU Common Understanding Agreement. The IMG UK-EU met most recently on 21 January 2026, and my officials shared a list of our priorities before that meeting which included improving mobility arrangements for touring artists. I also raised the issue of touring artists in the IMG on UK-EU relations in September.

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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.

At official level, this matter is raised at all opportunities, including at pre- and post-briefing meetings about the UK-EU Trade Specialised Committee on Services, Investment and Digital, which we attend as an observer. Officials also have fortnightly meetings with the UK government's Cabinet Office who are coordinating the EU reset work.

We continue to actively engage with the UK government and the EU, to ensure that the interests of Welsh creative workers are represented and advanced.

**2. The status of UK-EU discussions on this matter, including confirmation that it is being discussed.**

The matter of cross-border cultural collaboration and mobility for creative professionals is an active topic in UK-EU discussions. These issues are being discussed frequently at both ministerial and official levels, with ongoing dialogue aimed at addressing the numerous practical challenges caused by the UK's departure from the EU. Discussions are ongoing.

**3. Discussions with the EU on UK participation in EU programmes, including an update on whether the UK Government agrees with the Welsh Government, that participation in Creative Europe should be pursued.**

The Welsh Government continues to advocate for renewed UK participation in EU programmes, including Creative Europe, recognising its importance for the Welsh creative and cultural sectors. While the Welsh Government strongly supports pursuing this participation, the UK Government has not yet committed to rejoining Creative Europe.

**4. Whether the Welsh Government now considers AgoraEU as a priority programme for UK participation, given its subsumption of Creative Europe since our last exchange.**

The European Commission's proposal on AgoraEU is currently being discussed by EU institutions. The Welsh Government is monitoring these discussions and is considering if AgoraEU should be a priority programme for UK engagement, to maximise opportunities for Welsh creative professionals and organisations. It is expected that the programme will start in the next Multiannual Financial Framework cycle in 2028.

In summary, the Welsh Government remains committed to advancing the interests of Wales's creative and cultural sectors in all relevant forums and will continue to press for solutions that restore opportunities for international collaboration and improved mobility. We will keep the Committee informed of any developments in these areas.

Yours sincerely,



**Rebecca Evans AS/MS**

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