

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport and International Relations
Committee**

Richard Collier-Keywood, Chair
Welsh Rugby Union
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The Future of Welsh Rugby

Dear Mr Collier-Keywood,

I write as the result of our evidence session last Thursday, and would like to thank you, Alison Thorne and Geraint John for appearing before the Committee.

We recognise the significant hard work that has been undertaken over the last few years to stabilise the WRU's financial position, as well as positive developments within the culture of the WRU. We also recognise that the WRU and individual leaders are sometimes exposed to criticism that is unduly harsh, especially online.

However, it is clear to us that Welsh rugby is in a perilous state. Uncertainty surrounding the future of Welsh regions has caused considerable concern to people across our nation. No programme of change can be achieved without building a consensus for change. It is clear that the Union does not have the consensus needed to move forward with the proposal to reduce the number of regional sides from four to three. The WRU must recognise that it has lost the argument over the future of the professional game.

We were alarmed to hear you tell us that you have no Plan B, should your current proposals not progress as planned. Were this the case, it could represent a significant dereliction of duty. We urge you to find an alternative approach that continues to stabilise the finances of the Union and maintains confidence, whilst rebuilding trust with clubs and supporters.

The people of Wales feel a deep sense of ownership, pride and emotional connection to the game. That connection must be respected and nurtured. The Union must not find itself in the position of winning the vote but losing the soul of Welsh rugby.

We would welcome further clarity on the issues raised in this letter.

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

