

# Cross-Party Group Annual Report

## Cross Party Group Details

### Cross Party Group Title:

Cross Party Group on Wales International

## Group membership and office holders

### Name of Group Chair:

Heledd Fychan MS

### Names of other Members of the Senedd:

Heledd Fychan MS (Chair)

Rhun ap Iorwerth MS

Alun Davies MS

John Griffiths MS

Darren Millar MS

Ruth Cocks - British Council Wales

### Name of Secretary and Organisation:

Ruth Cocks, Director Wales at British Council

### Names of other external members and organisations represented:

N/A

## Other meetings of the Group since the last AGM

### Meeting 1

#### Date of Meeting:

18<sup>th</sup> of February 2025

#### Attendees:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
Abigail Doyle	Project Officer, British Council Wales
Amanda Morgan	Project Manager, International Links Global
Andrew Cornish	Principal of Coleg Sir Gar / Coleg Ceredigion Colegau Cymru
Anne Morgan	Head of International Partnerships, Cardiff University
Bill Burson	Head of Partnerships, Universities Wales/ Global Wales
Carol Bell	Non-Executive Director, Football Association Wales
Carolyn Hitt	Head of Radio Wales & Sport, BBC Wales
Catherine Lewis	Deputy CEO, NPTC Group
Catherine Paskell	Artistic Director, Dirty Protest Theatre
Claire Williams	Policy Officer, Colegau Cymru
David Warren	Head of International Relations, Welsh Govt.
Dean Pymble	Campaign Manager for Wales, The Red Card Wales
Eleanor Bevan	Schools and Youth Programme Manager, Taith
Elena Schmitz	Head of Arts Wales, British Council

Eluned Hâf	Head of Wales Arts International (WAI)/Arts Council of Wales
Fadhili Maghiya	CEO, Sub-Sahara Advisory Panel
Gary Lewis	Sports Director, Urdd Gobaith Cymru
Gavin Price	Alliance Leader - UK/Europe, Sports Diplomacy Alliance
Grant Pointer	CEO, Boys and Girls Club of Wales
Gwilym Harry-Roberts	Affairs & Policy Manager, National Museum Wales
Hayley Richard	Head of Programme Development & Policy, WCIA
Helen Antoniazzi	Head of Public Affairs & Sustainability, Football Association Wales
Ian Gwyn Hughes	Head of Public Relations, Football Association Wales
Ioan Bellin	Senedd Support Staff for Delyth Jewell
Jane Richardson	Chief Executive, Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales
Kath Morgan	Coleg y Cymoedd
Kieron Rees	Assistant Director, Global Wales
Laura Dukes	Cardiff University
Mali Thomas	Director of Communications & International Relations, Urdd Gobaith Cymru
Matthew Williams	Head of Policy and Communications Welsh Sports Association
Morgan Rhys	Senedd commission staff, translator

Nia Davies	Executive Producer, BBC Interactive
Poppy Riley	Welsh Sports Association
Rhiannon Sheen de Jesus	Youth Voice & Sport System Manager, Street Games Wales
Robert Baynham	Active Wellbeing Project Manager, Colegau Cymru
Rob Humphreys	Chair, British Council Wales Advisory Group
Ruben Chapela-Orrri	Bangor University, International Links
Ruth Cocks	Director, British Council Wales
Sarah Jones	Director, Focus Wales
Simon Lu	Participation Officer, Football Association Wales
Steffan Roberts	Deputy Director, Culture, Sport and Tourism, Welsh Govt.
Thomas Davies-Lyons	Education Manager, British Council Wales
Zelie Flach	European Officer, Wales Arts International/Arts Council of Wales

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### **Summary of the issues discussed:**

#### **Wales at the Women’s EUROs 2025 (February 2025)**

The February CPG focused on planning support for Wales’ Women’s National Team at the UEFA Women’s EUROs 2025, marking the team’s first qualification for a major international tournament. The session brought together partners from sport, culture, education, youth and related sectors to explore opportunities for coordinated activity. Speakers from the Football Association of Wales and the Welsh Government highlighted strong partner interest and

encouraged alignment with Welsh Government objectives, including the promotion of Welsh values and women’s and girls’ sport.

## Meeting 2

### Date of Meeting:

8<sup>th</sup> of July 2025

### Attendees:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title:</b>
Heledd Fychan MS	Chair (Member of the Senedd)
Brooke Webb	Support Staff (Heledd Fychan MS)
Sara Treble-Parry	Project Officer, British Council Wales
Abigail Llewellyn	Operations Manager, Cardiff University
Anjali Sanders	Policy Officer (East Asia and Americas), Universities UK International
April Heade	Senior Producer - Arts and Health programme, Welsh National Opera
Ben Pettitt-Wade	Artistic Director/Co-CEO, Hijinx
Brian Weir	Director of Academic Administration and Student Experience, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama
Carys Wynne-Morgan	CEO, The Aloud Charity
Chris Ricketts	General Manager, National Dance Company Wales
Conny Matera-Rogers	Provost and APVC International, University of Wales Trinity Saint David
Dafydd Tudur	Head of Engagement, National Library of Wales
David Wilson	Advisory Group member, British Council Arts and Creative Economy Advisory Group
Dom Hastings	Director Arts, British Council China; Culture Counsellor of the Culture Education Section of the British Embassy
Elena Schmitz	Head of Arts Wales, British Council

Evan Dawson	CEO, National Youth Arts Wales
I-Ting Kao	Lecturer in Chinese Studies, Cardiff University
Jennifer Dudley	Arts Manager, British Council
Jocelyn Spittle	Executive Officer, Cardiff University - Cardiff Confucius Institute
Leah Coffey	Consultant - Language Assistants, British Council
Liz Jones	National Trust Cymru
Louise Amery	Deputy Director, Aberystwyth Arts Centre
Madelaine Phillips	Senedd Research, Senedd
Maggie Russell	Chair, Arts Council of Wales
Michelle Perez	Executive Director, Theatr Iolo
Nan Sun	International Development Manager, Wrexham University
Nico Ferguson	Assistant Consultant, British Council
Nikki Morgan	Senior International Officer, Wales Arts International
Osian Gwynn	Director, Pontio Arts
Ralph Rogers	Regional Head, China at the British Council
Ramakanta Patra	Senior Lecturer in Economics, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Ruben Chapela-Orrri	Project Manager, International Links Global
Ruth Cocks	Country Director Wales & Country Education Lead, British Council
Sara Moran	International, EU & Trade Senior Researcher, Senedd
Sarah Jones	Director, FOCUS Wales
Sian Holleran	Project Manager - International, Colleges Wales
Steffan Donnelly	Artistic Director and Joint CEO, Theatr Cymru

Susana Galvan Hernandez	Executive Director, Taith
Thomas Davies-Lyons	Education Manager, British Council
Victoria Ucele	Schools Project Manager, Cardiff University - Cardiff Confucius Institute
Xiaoli Wu	Lecturer and Programme Director for Chinese Studies, Cardiff University

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### Summary of the issues discussed:

#### China Capability: Building for the Future (July 2025)

The July CPG examined Wales' engagement with China in the context of the UK Government's China Audit. British Council China specialists provided geopolitical context and emphasised the importance of building long-term China capability. The session coincided with the launch of the British Council's *A Guide to Arts and Culture Opportunities in China (2025)*, supporting informed engagement with China's cultural and creative sectors. The discussion highlighted cautious but renewed interest from the Welsh higher education and arts sectors. Following the CPG, the British Council launched China Travel Grants for Arts, providing Wales-based artists and arts organisations the opportunity to travel to mainland China to explore partnerships and festivals.

### Meeting 3

#### Date of Meeting:

25<sup>th</sup> of November 2025

#### Attendees:

Name:	Title:
Heledd Fychan MS	Chair, Senedd Constituency Member
Eleri Morgan	Translator
Adele Thomas	Co-General Director/ CEO, Welsh National Opera
Alexandra Nita	Project Coordinator, MFL Mentoring

Alun Davies MS	Senedd Constituency Member
Alun Gruffudd	Communications and Parliamentary Affairs Officer
Amanda Morgan	Project Manager, International Links Global
Aneurin Minton	Staff Lindsay Whittle
Angharad Davies	Staff Rhys ab Owen
Angharad Jones Leefe	Cyfarwyddwr Gweithredol a Chyd-Brif Weithredwr, Theatr Cymru
Annika Axelsen	Study Abroad Coordinator, Cardiff University
Brooke Webb	Communications Officer and Parliamentary Affairs Officer
Catherine Young	Artistic Director, Dawns i Bawb
Catrin James	Head of Policy Grants and Governance, Urdd Gobaith Cymru
Catrin Roberts	Pennaeth Cysylltiadau Allanol, Cyfathrebu a Nawdd, Amgueddfa Cymru
Christine Monks	EU & International Development Officer, Bangor University
Dafydd Rhys	Chief Executive, Arts Council of Wales
Deborah Keyser	Director, Tŷ Cerdd - Music Centre Wales
Derek Walker	Future Generations Commissioner for Wales
Dr Bethan Gordon	Dean of the School of Art & Design, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Elena Schmitz	Head of Arts Wales, British Council
Ellie Bevan	Head of Programmes, Policy and Engagement, Taith
Eluned Hâf	Head of Wales Arts International (Arts Council of Wales)
Fadhili Maghiya	CEO, Watch-Africa CIC
Gabriela María Alonso López	Spanish Embassy Education Office in the UK
Glesni Owen	Operations Manager, MFL Mentoring

Glesni Price	Producer, Theatr Iolo
Guto Brychan	Chief Executive, Clwb Ifor Bach
Gwenda Carnie	Director/Business Affairs Advisor/Non-Practicing Solicitor, Industry Media Consulting Ltd
Hayley Richards	Head of Programme Development & Policy, Welsh Centre for International Affairs
Howard Batey	Programme Manager - Going Global Partnerships, British Council
Ioan Bellin	Staff Delyth Jewell
Jennifer Dudley	Arts Manager Wales, British Council
Joe Paley	Head of International and Partnership Development, University of South Wales
Julia Barry	Chief Executive, Sherman Theatre
Laura Davies	Director of Communications, Marketing and Student Recruitment, Cardiff University
Lee Walters	Chief Executive Officer, Ffilm Cymru Wales
Lhosa Daly	Director for Wales, National Trust Cymru
Lisa Tregale	Director, BBC National Orchestra & Chorus of Wales
Louise Miles-Payne	Director, Creu Cymru
Lucy Jenkins	Principal Investigator, MFL Mentoring Project
Michelle Perez	Executive Director, Theatr Iolo
Mick Antoniw MS	Senedd Constituency Member
Nigel Holt	Associate Pro Vice Chancellor International, Aberystwyth University
Osian Gwynn	Director, Pontio Arts Centre - Bangor University
Professor Paul Davies	Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Wrexham University
Professor Rachael Langford	President and Vice-Chancellor, Cardiff Metropolitan University
Rhian Gibson	Director of Communication and Engagement, National Library of Wales

Rhiannon Wyn Hughes	Executive Director, Wicked Wales Film
Rose Matthews	Head, Global Opportunities, Cardiff University
Ruth Cayford	Head of Culture and Creative Industries, Cardiff Council
Ruth Cocks	Country Director Wales, British Council
Sara Moran	Senior Researcher, Senedd Research
Sara Novo Loureiro	Project Coordinator Overseas Programme, Coleg Gwent
Sara Treble-Parry	Project Support Officer Wales, British Council
Sarah Boswell	Chief Executive Officer, Wales Netball
Sharon Davies-Smith	College Director / Principal, The College, Swansea University
Sharon Gilburd	CEO, Welsh National Theatre
Sian Holleran	International Project Manager, ColegauCymru
Thomas Davies-Lyons	Education Manager Wales, British Council
Tom Woodward	Assistant Director, Universities Wales
Vanessa Palmer	Assistant Headteacher, Ysgol Calon Lan
Victoria Ucele	Schools Project Manager, Cardiff Confucius Institute (Cardiff University)

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### **Summary of the issues discussed:**

#### **Senedd Elections: International Priorities (November 2025)**

The November CPG considered Wales' international priorities ahead of the Senedd elections in May 2026 and the development of party manifestos. Reflections from Arts Council of Wales, Universities Wales, the Office of the Future Generations Commissioner, Colleges Wales and others informed an open discussion on Wales' global positioning. Key themes included support for the return to Erasmus+, the complementary role of Taith for schools and youth sectors, the

need for an International Higher Education Strategy, and the importance of integrated ministerial leadership across culture, language and international portfolio

**Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities the Group have met during the previous year.**

[names of lobbyists/organisations/charities should be included as follows, e.g.]

**Name of Organisation:**

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**Name of Group:**

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**Name of Organisation:**

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**Name of Group:**

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## Annual Financial Statement

**Cross Party Group Title:**

**Cross Party Group on Wales International**

**Date:**

18/12/25

**Name of Chair:**

**Heledd Fychan MS**

**Name of Secretary and Organisation:**

**Ruth Cocks, Director Wales at British Council**

Title	Description	Amount
<b>Group's Expenses</b>	None	£0.00
<b>Costs of all goods</b>	No goods bought	£0.00
<b>Benefits received by the group or individuals members from external bodies</b>	No benefits received.	£0.00
<b>Any financial support or other support.</b>	No financial support was received.	£0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£0.00</b>

Services provided to the Group, such as hospitality.

All hospitality paid for [include the name of the group/organisation].

Date	Name and description of provider	Costs
		£0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£0.00</b>