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Thank you for your letter dated 3 May 2018 regarding the thematic review of representation and portrayal in the BBC. I recognise the significance of the issues you raise and the importance of accurate representation and authentic portrayal of communities in Wales.

Your recommendations include new, measurable targets for Welsh representation in the BBC. The operating licence for the BBC's UK public services, issued by Ofcom in October 2017, includes quotas for the share of the BBC's budget spent in each of the UK's nations and for the first time introduces matching quotas for the proportion of hours of content made in each nation. Decisions about the location or approach taken by the BBC's commissioning teams are operational matters which are not within Ofcom's remit.

Your letter raises concerns around the coverage of Welsh issues on BBC news. The BBC's news agenda and editorial decisions around news and current affairs are not within the scope of this review, and indeed are not within Ofcom's remit. Issues surrounding due accuracy and due impartiality of news and current affairs are covered in Ofcom's Broadcasting Code. The primary aim of our review is to consider who appears on screen and how they are portrayed. We will do this by seeking people's views on how they and their communities are represented and portrayed by the BBC. This may raise issues related to news coverage in the nations, and we will reflect these issues in the review's findings. While focused on television, we expect our findings will bear relevance across all platforms, including radio.

I note your call for Wales to be included as one of the "different groups" about which we will gather qualitative and quantitative data. Our consumer research programme will include views from people from a wide range of backgrounds and communities, from a range of locations across the nations. We have held research groups in Swansea, Aberystwyth and Conwy to ensure our selection of locations in Wales provides an appropriate diversity of views.

Regarding the BBC's decision to reinstate the post of BBC Director of Nations and Regions, we are unable to launch an investigation into this as BBC governance issues are not within Ofcom's remit.

I hope you find this information useful. My team will be happy to discuss the findings of the thematic review with you and the Committee following its publication.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'S' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish at the end.

Sharon White