

Written Response by the Welsh Government to the report of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee entitled: Brexit, the arts sector, creative industries and the Welsh language

I would like to thank the Chair and members of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee for its considered report and recommendations. I agree that our creative industries, arts, cultural and heritage organisations in Wales benefit significantly from membership of the EU, not just because of EU funding but also in relation to access to skilled workers and freedom of movement, the single market for goods and services and participation in European programmes and partnerships, amongst other things. We continue to work closely with the UK Government and continue to plan for all possible outcomes during this uncertain period.

Detailed responses to the report's recommendations are set out below:

Recommendation 1. The Welsh Government should continue to lobby the UK Government to remain part of Creative Europe, Horizon 2020 and Erasmus+ once we leave the EU. If this is not possible then the Welsh Government should pursue the option of membership using the precedent set by Quebec's participation in Horizon 2020.

Accept: Creative Europe is the EU's framework programme for support to the culture and audio-visual sectors. The programme provides significant funding for independent production companies in Wales. The UK whitepaper notes that the UK is open to continued involvement in Creative Europe to support the cultural, creative and audio-visual sectors. The Welsh Government will continue to seek confirmation that this will be possible and how the UK Government intends to facilitate this. Given this is a scheme in which we have a direct interest, providing advice directly to Welsh applicants, the Welsh Government needs to be active in the decision making process. The UK Government cannot make this decision in isolation. We need a commitment for transparency in the decision making process and joint agreement on the positive case to be put forward.

Erasmus+ which also has provided considerable support to cultural activities across each of the sectors. The end of the implementation period coincides with the natural end of the scheme, and the UK white paper notes that the UK is open to exploring participation in the successor scheme. The Welsh Government will continue to lobby for this.

The Welsh Government supports full association to the Horizon 2020 programme and meets regularly with relevant officials in UK government on this subject. The UK government has stated that it would like to explore the option of association to Horizon 2020/Horizon Europe.

Quebec takes part in Horizon 2020 as a part of Canada, which is a third country (not associated). Quebec operates a provincial support scheme for international

cooperation. The scheme is able to fund the participation of organisations from Quebec who take part in Horizon 2020 consortia as a third country. The UK has such a [provision](#) already in place through the extension to the funding guarantee. The UK scheme could offer advantages over the Quebec scheme if it maximises alignment with Horizon 2020 in terms of timing, funding rates and other provisions.

Financial implications: None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets

Recommendation 2. The Welsh Government should continue to make the case for the freest possible arrangements for the movement of labour which is essential for the economic and cultural productivity of Wales' creative industry.

Accept: The Welsh Government priority is for a new migration system that links migration more closely to employment so we can recruit the workers we need, while protecting employees from exploitation. We recognise is a very real risk that skills shortages in the UK will be made worse - at least in the short to medium term if the UK Government implement a more restrictive immigration system. Many freelancers in the sector will have relied on freedom of movement as the route into the UK and may not be able to get a Tier 2 visa in a future.

Any proposals to review the immigration and visa rules must be based on understanding specific needs of the cultural and creative industries where the value of a young musician or early-stage app designer is not necessarily commensurate with the salary or qualification thresholds recently recommended by the Migration Advisory Committee's report on EEA migration to the UK Government.

Financial implications: None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets

Recommendation 3. The Welsh Government should ensure that any future arrangements for enabling European workers to come to Wales and vice versa will not be financially and administratively prohibitive for small employers. The arrangements should also take into account the fact that the arts sector is more likely to employ people on.

Accept. We recognise the needs of the cultural and creative industries in terms of atypical work contracts, and welcome the UK Government's commitments in the Brexit strategy whitepaper that it is prepared to allow EU citizens to travel freely without a visa in the UK for tourism and temporary work and allow EU students to study in the UK. But we would welcome further detail from the UK Government on how migration arrangements could work after Brexit, and await the long-delayed white paper on migration which has been promised in the autumn.

Financial implications: None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

Recommendation 4. That the Welsh Government should prepare information and advice for the industry on the possible impact of restriction of the movement of goods and services. This should include a “one stop shop” for touring companies with information on European requirements for employment contracts, visas, transport of equipment, insurance and taxation.

Accept in Principle : We have launched the Preparing Wales/Paratoi Cymru website as an online platform to provide up to date information to help businesses, people and industry prepare for Brexit, including in a no deal scenario. This includes links to other sources of information and material, including to that prepared by the UK Government.

However, the responsibility for the development of much of this advice and information lies with the UK Government – for example, information about visas and insurance is not devolved post-Brexit and has been developed by the UK Government. Preparing Wales/Paratoi Cymru can and will signpost individuals and organisations to such information.

Financial implications: None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets.

Recommendation 5. In negotiations with the UK Government the Welsh Government should continue to make the case for remaining part of a common regulatory framework with Europe. The Welsh Government should ensure that there is no dilution of protection for intellectual property once we leave the EU.

Accept: In June last year the Welsh Government wrote to the UK Government about its engagement with the EU on proposals to change copyright rules in the digital single market. We said then that cross border protection of copyright is vital to Welsh companies and that remains the case. Whether the UK is part of the EU or not, Welsh businesses need clear, enforceable rules in this area to enable unhindered cross border digital working, strong protection of their intellectual property across all markets and to implement a robust method of policing piracy and IP theft.

Financial implications: None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets

Recommendation 6. The Welsh Government should undertake a risk assessment on the impact of Brexit on Welsh speaking communities; the Welsh language and language learning in schools and universities in Wales.

Accept: There are two aspects to this recommendation:

- the impact of Brexit on Welsh-speaking communities and the Welsh language more generally; and
- the impact of Brexit on language learning in schools and universities in Wales

In relation to the **impact of Brexit on Welsh-speaking communities and the Welsh language more generally:** Our approach in terms of assessing the risk of the impact of Brexit on Welsh speaking communities and on the Welsh language more generally will be to do so on a continuous basis as part of our *Cymraeg 2050* strategy programme monitoring. This will not be a quantitative study of impacts on the Welsh language, but rather an approach which identifies the key risks to the delivery of various aspects of our strategy. This reflects the cross-cutting nature of the Welsh language and that, for the most part, the impact of Brexit on the Welsh language will be indirect as a result of possible changes to socio-economic make up of communities.

For example, any impact on the agriculture sector and rural economy will challenge the resilience of Welsh-speaking communities. A vibrant economy is integral to creating the social conditions where Welsh speakers can stay in Welsh-speaking communities, or return to live and work in those communities: a key aspect of our *Cymraeg 2050* strategy.

As such, we are committed to ensuring that our response to Brexit across Government takes full account of potential implications on Welsh-speaking communities and the Welsh language. For example, we are committed through the changes proposed in the recent consultation '*Brexit: Our Land*' to keeping farmers on the land, and to working with them to create a better, more prosperous future for their sector. We have already committed to undertaking a Welsh Language Impact Assessment on our final proposals following consideration of consultation responses. We will do likewise for other policy changes that will be required as a consequence of Brexit.

The Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language has been in correspondence with the Welsh Language Commissioner in relation to the potential impact of Brexit on the Welsh language, and discussions with the Commissioner on this issue will continue.

With regard to the **impact of Brexit on language learning in schools and universities in Wales:** Learning other languages is an important element in the education of children and young people. Research shows that it broadens horizons, introduces learners to other cultures and provides them with the experiences and skills that they need to succeed in the new global economy. Awareness of the diversity of languages in learners' homes and schools helps build and develop connections across communities and therefore increases community cohesion. It is important that all young people from all backgrounds understand the benefits of, and have the opportunity to learn a language. It is for this reason that languages will play

a prominent part in Wales's new curriculum. The Languages, Literacy and Communication Area of Learning and Experience in the new curriculum for Wales will bring together Welsh, English and international languages. International languages include modern languages, community languages, classical languages and British Sign Language. Pupils will learn Welsh and English from age 3-16. They will start learning international language(s) from primary schools. This will include learning about languages and learning about identity and culture through language. Welsh will no longer be divided into separate programmes of study for Welsh first and second language.

When Wales exits the EU, for the health of our economy there will be a need to establish and maintain international trade partnerships with other countries. For this to be successful we will need linguists able to broker these deals. Current provision and exam entry figures suggest that there will not be the supply to meet the demand. British Council's *Language Trends Survey 2018*, Gorwel's *Mind your language* report, and Professor Claire Gorrarra's (Cardiff University Professor of French and Academic lead for the MFL Mentoring Project) paper *Speaking from Wales: Building a Modern Languages Community in the Era of Brexit* all draw the link between Brexit and the increased need for Welsh linguists.

However across the UK there has been a decline in the numbers of learners studying a MFL at examination level. The increased competition for subject time in school timetables and the perceived dominant position of English as the language of global business have all contributed to this decline. The approach within the new curriculum aims to address this decline however it is also important that we assess the impact that Brexit may have on the current situation in relation to language learning in schools and universities in Wales. Further consideration will need to be given to ensure that the impact assessment aligns with other research already planned on language learning and teaching in Wales.

Financial implications: None in relation to the risk assessment on Welsh-speaking communities and the Welsh language.

Recommendation 7. The Welsh Government should carry out a survey of the "soft" benefits to cultural organisations of membership of informal and formal European networks and develop options for continued membership of these networks to raise the profile of our arts, heritage and cultural organisations on the international stage.

Accept: Membership of EU cultural groups and networks provide intelligence and information about international markets and opportunities. Such intelligence will be vital if we are to influence future debate and develop new cultural and trading relationships in Europe and further afield.

Financial implications: None. Any additional costs will be drawn from existing programme budgets