

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

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference via Zoom	Rhys Morgan
Meeting date: 14 July 2021	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.30	0300 200 6565
	SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Pre-Meeting registration

(09:15–09:30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09:30)

2 Committee remit

(09:30–09:35)

(Pages 1 – 2)

3 Papers to note

(09:35–09:40)

3.1 Welsh Government response to the report 'Exploring the Devolution of Broadcasting: How can Wales get the media it needs?'

(Pages 3 – 8)

3.2 Response from the Department of Digital, Culture, Media and Sport on 'Exploring the Devolution of Broadcasting: How can Wales get the media it needs?'

(Pages 9 – 13)

3.3 Legacy report of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

(Pages 14 – 51)

3.4 Welsh Government response to the CWLC report on 'Follow-up on work the impact of COVID-19 on sport'

(Pages 52 – 57)



- 4 Motion under SO17.42(ix) to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**
(09:40)
- 5 Committee procedures and ways of working**
(09:40–09:55) (Pages 58 – 65)
- 6 Strategic approach to Committee remit**
(09:55–10:15) (Pages 66 – 77)
- 7 Early Committee activity**
(10:15–10:35) (Pages 78 – 83)

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

Purpose

1. The paper sets out the remit and responsibilities of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee.
2. The Committee is invited to note its remit.

Background

3. The rules and procedures of the Senedd are laid out in Standing Orders. Standing Order 16.1 requires the Senedd to establish committees with power within their remit to:

- “(i) examine the expenditure, administration and policy of the government and associated public bodies;
- (ii) examine legislation;
- (iii) undertake other functions specified in Standing Orders; and
- (iv) consider any matter affecting Wales.”

4. In doing this, the Business Committee has to ensure that every area of responsibility of the Welsh Government and associated public bodies, and all matters relating to the legislative competence of the Senedd and functions of the Welsh Ministers and of the Counsel General, are subject to committee scrutiny.



Committee remit

5. The remit of this Committee, as agreed by the Senedd on 23 June 2021, is:

“to examine legislation and hold the Welsh Government to account by scrutinising its expenditure, administration and policy matters, encompassing (but not restricted to): the Welsh Language, culture; the arts; historic environment; communications, broadcasting; the media, sport, and international relations.

The Committee may investigate any area of policy from the perspective of the Welsh Language.”

6. Further details on the wider roles and responsibilities of Senedd committees are set out in the Business Committee’s report [Sixth Senedd Committees titles and remits](#) laid before the Senedd on 29 June 2021.

7. When thinking about the Committee’s remit it is important to note the Business Committee’s view that:

“As was the case in the Fifth Senedd, it is important to understand that, in the case of the policy and legislation committees, their remits are not prescriptive or restrictive. We have deliberately allowed them to remain broad and we decided not to provide a list of subjects attached to each committee. As in the previous two Seneddau, we believe that providing committees with the ability to pursue issues across portfolios and subject areas makes for better scrutiny and avoids the risk of too narrow an approach.”¹

¹ Welsh Parliament, Business Committee report [Sixth Senedd Committees titles and remits](#) – June 2021

Agenda Item 3.1

Welsh Government response to the Culture, Welsh Language and Communication Committee report, ‘Exploring the devolution of broadcasting: How can Wales get the media it needs?’

The Welsh Government welcomes the findings of the report and offers the following response to the ten recommendations contained within.

Recommendation 1

The Committee’s view is that enhanced broadcasting responsibilities for the Senedd and Welsh Government would materially improve media provision in Wales. The Welsh Government, UK Government and Ofcom should set out how the provision of media content for audiences in Wales can be improved.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government’s response to the Ofcom ‘*Small Screen: Big Debate*’ consultation on the future of public service broadcasting notes the limited coverage of Welsh public life and society in UK newspapers and on UK broadcast services. In addition, it notes that the portrayal of Wales in UK media insufficiently reflects the cultural diversity and richness of the nation. We have repeatedly called for greater accountability to Wales on media issues to ensure media provision remains fit-for-purpose in a devolved context and in view of the unique and distinct situation in Wales.

The Welsh Government is keen to work with the UK Government and Ofcom to identify opportunities to support improvements in the provision of media content for audiences in Wales. Given the rapidly changing broadcasting and media landscape and ongoing evolution of digital innovations this is a critical time in the broadcasting debate. It is essential that we work in partnerships as changes to the regulatory framework are being considered to ensure our media serves the needs of audiences in Wales.

The Welsh Government recognises the importance of media independence from government and, ultimately, the provision of media content and services in Wales is a matter for media organisations and broadcasters. As such, broadcasters and media organisation are key partners in these discussions and play a vital role in the provision of media content that is fit for purpose. Creative Wales will build on the positive relationships it has developed with stakeholders including media organisations and public service broadcasters in Wales to support improvements in media provision.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 2

The Welsh Government should establish an ongoing central fund to support news journalism, with arms-length delivery and accountability to secure impartiality.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government has supported news journalism through the Independent Community Journalism Fund. The Welsh Government has been exploring options to strengthen and diversify the provision of news in Wales in response to concerns regarding weaknesses in the indigenous media infrastructure and plurality of news on matters of public interest. A number of discussions have been held with stakeholders over recent months.

These discussions have reflected the view of the Committee that the supply of media content for Wales is inadequate, including the report's findings of dissatisfaction with the supply of media content for Welsh audiences, in particular news and current affairs content.

The Welsh Government recognises the impact of this on scrutiny of government decisions and democratic accountability, and is exploring options to fund an increase in coverage of news, on an arms-length basis. A financial commitment of £100,000 has been set aside in the Creative Wales budget and business plan for 2021/22 to support this. The Welsh Government is keen to work with stakeholders, including the Senedd, as a proposal is developed to explore the potential to secure additional financial support and ensure the agreed approach meets audience needs in Wales. The approach will be reviewed at the end of the financial year.

Financial implications: £100k revenue funding commitment in the Creative Wales budget in 2021/22 to contribute to this.

Recommendation 3

Within current arrangements, we would like to see an independent funding commission established with distinct Welsh representation. Decisions made by such a body should seek consent from representatives of all UK nations. Welsh appointees to this Committee should be made by the Welsh Government and subject to a confirmation hearing in front of an appropriate Senedd committee.

Response: Not a recommendation for the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government agrees the nations should have a role in important funding decisions, in the context of broadcasting's independence from government. We note a lack of transparency and engagement by UK Government in respect of historic funding decisions, for example decisions on the TV licence fee in 2010 and 2015. The Welsh Government notes important decisions in coming months on funding, including the process to agree the level of the TV licence fee from 2022, and its particular impact on funding for S4C which will receive all of its public funding from the licence fee from next year. In addition, the debate on the future of public service broadcasting, which may lead to changes to funding models. We would welcome a formal mechanism that ensures these and other decisions are made in full and effective consultation with key stakeholders across all four nations, recognising the impact of those decisions on those who live in different parts of the UK.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 4

The UK Government should devolve powers over S4C and other public service Welsh language broadcasting matters to Wales.

Response: Not a recommendation for the Welsh Government.

The UK Government has not offered to devolve policy or funding responsibility for S4C and other public service Welsh language broadcasting matters to Wales. At present, it remains the Welsh Government's view that broadcasting or elements of broadcasting should not be devolved. There could be significant financial risks to devolving these powers to Wales, with no guarantee that budgets would be transferred as well.

The Welsh Government has been clear, however, that although overall regulation of broadcasting should remain with the UK Government, this does not mean that there should not be greater accountability to Wales. The Welsh Government recognises the hugely important role S4C and Welsh language broadcasting plays in supporting our ambitions for the Welsh language as set out in Cymraeg 2050. This includes a role in the provision of public interest information and news and creative content in the Welsh language and educational resources to support Welsh language learners and speakers, which has been particularly important during the current COVID-19 crisis. It is essential that Welsh language has adequate status in discussions and decisions on broadcasting and that services meet the needs of people in Wales, including Welsh language speakers. This is of particular importance as broadcasting structures evolve to ensure the interests of Wales as they relate to the Welsh language are debated, understood and reflected in any changes to the broadcasting frameworks.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 5

There should be a requirement for the Channel 3 licence in Wales to produce a greater proportion of network content in Wales. The Welsh Government should have a formal role in this process.

Response: Not a recommendation for the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government recognises the importance of the Channel 3 licence in supporting plurality of content and to the sustainability and growth of the creative industries in Wales. ITV Cymru Wales continues to play a vital role as an alternative to the BBC for both news and non-news programming, and provides an essential democratic news service for the people of Wales.

The Welsh Government has expressed concern regarding the decline in ITV Cymru Wales spend on first-run content for Wales during the period of this administration. The Welsh Government works closely with Ofcom as the independent regulator to help to ensure provision reflects the cultural diversity and richness of Wales and its people. This includes regular engagement with Ofcom, the Ofcom Board member for

Wales, and through Ofcom consultations to support a greater proportion of network content in Wales.

Creative Wales has developed a positive working relationship with ITV Cymru Wales and ITV Studios since its launch. Creative Wales supported The Pembrokeshire Murders which aired on ITV in January 2021, and provided a high level of logistical support for I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here in 2020. We will be developing a memorandum of understanding between ITV and Creative Wales in 2021/22 which will explore opportunities to build on this positive relationship and support a wider array of content for Wales across genres.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 6

The UK Government should legislate to enable an appropriate regulatory body to require Welsh language content as part of commercial radio licences in Wales, alongside introducing a regulatory category of "all-Wales news". The Welsh Government should have a formal role in setting these requirements.

Response: Not a recommendation for the Welsh Government.

Commercial radio stations play an important role in the provision of media services in Wales, in particular the provision of Welsh news, considering the weakness of the print media in Wales and the lack of coverage of Welsh affairs in UK newspapers. The Welsh Government has emphasised to Ofcom and the UK Government that we would not wish to see further relaxation or removal of the current localness rules on commercial radio and has called for due consideration to the bilingual nature of Wales and the importance of the Welsh language when radio licenses for stations in Wales are awarded or reviewed.

The Welsh Government will continue to raise the matter of sufficient provision of Welsh and Welsh language content on radio in our discussions with the UK Government and with Ofcom.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 7

The UK Government should regulate global streaming services to strengthen the public service media ecosystem. Such regulation could include levies to fund public service content, or requirements to carry public service content. The UK government should consider extending levies to include other large online companies, such as search engines and social networking sites.

Response: Not a recommendation for the Welsh Government.

The Welsh Government's response to '*Small Screen: Big Debate*' notes the impact of global platforms and streaming services on public service broadcasting across the UK. We agree that any future regulatory framework introduced to meet the needs of

the changing media landscape must reflect this impact and ensure that changes are made so that the universal availability of public service content is protected and public service broadcasting can be carried on digital platforms on fair terms. We call on the UK Government to take urgent action in response to any recommendations set out by Ofcom as part of its '*Small Screen: Big Debate*' review.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 8

The Sixth Senedd should include a committee with media policy as a central part of its remit. This Committee should conduct confirmation hearings, if necessary in joint meetings with a relevant Westminster committee, with the Ofcom board member for Wales, the BBC board member for Wales and the chair of the S4C board. Ongoing scrutiny of these bodies, as well as other broadcasters, including the holder of the Channel 3 licence, should be part of its work programme. In the advent of further devolution of broadcasting powers to the Senedd, this Committee could play a further role in the regulation and financing of media provision.

Response: Not a recommendation for the Welsh Government.

The media plays a crucial role in informing, entertaining, educating and creating a common cultural citizenship. The importance of this role has been particularly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a vital contributor to the growth of the creative industries and the economy of Wales, sustaining the development of content from independent production companies, and supporting diversity and future sustainability in the sector through skills and talent development. In addition, a strong and effective media is essential to devolution and sustaining and growing the Welsh language.

The Welsh Government notes the rapidly changing media landscape; changes that have been accelerated by the global COVID-19 pandemic. Urgent action is needed as the pace of this change increases, to ensure a fit for purpose media that is serving the needs of Wales.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 9

The Welsh Government should have an enhanced role in setting the terms of the next Channel 3 licence for Wales.

Response: Not a recommendation for the Welsh Government.

As noted in the response to recommendation 5, the Welsh Government recognises the importance of the Channel 3 licence in supporting plurality of content and to the sustainability and growth of the creative industries in Wales.

The current licensing period for the Channel 3 services will expire at the end of 2024. We have regularly stressed that a new licence provides an opportunity to address

any imbalance in content provision and ensure an appropriate level of provision, protected for the future. The Welsh Government will work closely with Ofcom as the independent regulator to raise matters of importance to Wales in respect of the Channel 3 license to ensure provision meets the needs of Welsh audiences.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 10

The BBC should provide an improved successor forum to the Audience Councils, where the views of audiences in Wales can be gathered and contribute to the development of BBC policy.

Response: Not a recommendation for the Welsh Government.

The Audience Council for Wales played an important role scrutinising the BBC's performance and assessing its programmes and services on behalf of audiences in Wales. It provided valuable advice to the BBC on issues relating to its audiences and services at a Wales level and a clear mechanism to support the development of output and activities that deliver for Welsh audiences, which has not been fully replicated by the BBC Board Wales Committee.

The Welsh Government would welcome any developments that strengthen the current arrangements and provide a more effective voice for the Welsh audience in the development and delivery of BBC services in Wales.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Lord Elis-Thomas MS
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

UK government response to the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications committee report 'Exploring the devolution of broadcasting'.

6 April 2021

1. The UK government welcomes the opportunity to respond to the Welsh Parliament's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications committee report '*Exploring the devolution of broadcasting*'.
2. The UK government is committed to strengthening the Union across all sectors, including broadcasting, and unleashing the potential of the UK's broadcasters as part of a stronger, global Britain. As set out in the manifesto, the UK government will continue to support S4C and support the Welsh Government's ambition for one million Welsh speakers by 2050.
3. Broadcasting plays a critically important role in the culture and communities of people across all parts of the United Kingdom. It has a powerful role both in shaping the views of communities on the world and reflecting an authentic portrayal of those communities on screen.
4. That is why the UK government believes that it is vital that all of the UK's broadcasters are close to, and understand the perspective of, the diverse communities across the country - rather than providing only a narrow urban outlook. The UK broadcasting landscape - both on and off screen - should be a celebration of the genuine diversity of thought and experience which helps to make the United Kingdom a great place to live.
5. This approach underpins the UK government's response to the recommendations of the Committee. The response takes in turn each of the Committee's seven recommendations for the UK government below. The UK government is not responding to those recommendations for other bodies from the Committee's report.

Recommendation one: the Committee's view is that enhanced broadcasting responsibilities for the Senedd and Welsh Government would materially improve media provision in Wales. The Welsh Government, UK Government and Ofcom should set out how the provision of media content for audiences in Wales can be improved.

6. The UK government recognises the importance of audiences across the UK seeing themselves and their lives authentically reflected in the content they see on screen and in the team which produce and create that content. We also agree with the Committee's findings that '*public service broadcasting reflects and informs our lives and shores up a thriving Welsh production sector*'.
7. However, it is ultimately for the broadcasters and content providers, as editorially independent organisations, to set out how they will continue to deliver for audiences in Wales.

8. As acknowledged in the Committee's findings, the screen production sector in Wales is thriving and some of the most popular shows on television like *Keeping Faith* and *His Dark Materials* are made in Wales. The Committee may be aware that PACT estimates that, in 2019, 17% of UK independent production budgets – more than £500 million – were spent in Wales. The UK government is committed to supporting this as part of its ambitious levelling up agenda.
9. In addition, the UK government established the pilot Contestable Fund in April 2019 to stimulate the provision and plurality of public service original UK content in targeted areas. One of the Fund's specific aims is to increase the provision of content which is reflective of the cultural identity across the UK nations and regions. Furthermore, up to 5% of the Fund is targeted to produce content in indigenous UK languages, like Welsh and Gaelic.
10. The Young Audiences Content Fund, administered by the BFI, has to date supported over 26 hours of brand new content made in Wales, contributing over £2.8 million to the production costs of 9 different shows. In total, including content re-versioned, 34 hours of Welsh language content will be available for young audiences.
11. The UK government notes the Committee's specific concerns on the provision of news and current affairs content in Wales, in both English and Welsh. In response to similar concerns raised by the Independent Review of S4C completed by Euryng Ogwen Williams, the UK government set out that both the BBC and S4C should carefully consider the issues raised in the review. Likewise, the UK government believes that, as they take forward their independent editorial and strategic decisions, the BBC and S4C should address the concerns of the committee and outline how they intend to provide news and current affairs content in Wales to meet the needs of audiences.

Recommendation three: *Within current arrangements, we would like to see an independent funding commission established with distinct Welsh representation. Decisions made by such a body should seek consent from representatives of all UK nations. Welsh appointees to this Committee should be made by the Welsh Government and subject to a confirmation hearing in front of an appropriate Senedd committee.*

12. The UK government has no plans to establish an independent funding commission for the BBC or S4C or to set the level of the television licence.
13. The UK government disagrees with the Committee's view that decisions about the licence fee are made with *'little democratic oversight'*.
14. There was significant democratic oversight in determining the licence fee model as part of the current BBC Charter, which runs to 2027. The Charter Review 2015/16 was an extensive process of consultation and evidence gathering, with over 190,000 responses to the public consultation and engagement with over 300 organisations and industry experts. This consultation found that the public did not want a significant change in the purpose or scale of the BBC and the majority did not think the current licence fee model needed to be changed. As a result, the government committed to

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maintain the current licence fee funding model for the duration of this Charter period, which runs until 2027.

15. In addition, the UK government is committed to greater transparency within the upcoming licence fee settlement, which will determine funding for the BBC and S4C for at least 5 years from April 2022. On 10 November both the Secretary of State and the Minister for Civil Society tabled written statements in the UK Parliament formally announcing the process. On the same day, the UK government published the formal commissioning letters to the BBC and S4C requesting their financial information and will publish further formal correspondence where appropriate. These letters set out the key factors that the BBC and S4C should consider when submitting their requests for the next settlement period.
16. The Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport will also lay his determination before the UK Parliament to allow time for parliamentary debate before the settlement takes effect in 2022.

Recommendation four: *The UK Government should devolve powers over S4C and other public service Welsh language broadcasting matters to Wales.*

17. S4C is a valuable part of Welsh broadcasting and the creative industries. It makes a significant contribution to the Welsh economy, culture and society - and it is an important force in promoting the Welsh language. The UK government is committed to supporting S4C and securing its place as a great Welsh institution as well as wider efforts to help fulfill the Welsh Government's aim to have 1 million Welsh language speakers by 2050. These findings were reflected in the UK government response to the Independent Review of S4C completed by Euryng Ogwen Williams.
18. The government's position is clear that broadcasting policy - including S4C and other public service broadcasters - is and will remain a reserved matter, regulated at a UK level. This includes matters related to setting the level of the TV licence and the amount received by S4C, as set out above.
19. Broadcasters play an important part in the UK's economic and cultural landscape, and it is right the UK government retains responsibility for the sector given the scale at which it operates in the digital age. This position was confirmed in the St. David's Day Agreement 2015 published by the Coalition Government, following cross-party talks on the Silk Commission (Part II) recommendations. These talks established a consensus on the matter that the regulation of broadcasting should remain the responsibility of the UK government.

Recommendation five: *There should be a requirement for the Channel 3 licence in Wales to produce a greater proportion of network content in Wales. The Welsh Government should have a formal role in this process.*

Recommendation nine: *The Welsh Government should have an enhanced role in setting the terms of the next Channel 3 licence for Wales.*

20. The Government recognises that public service broadcasters play an important role in ensuring the broadcasting system provides for the whole country. Channel 3 services support regional production which is vital to ensuring the proper representation and reflection of audiences around the UK.
21. The regional Channel 3 licences, including the Channel 3 licence for Wales, expire on 31 December 2024. The Communications Act 2003 describes the licence renewal process, including the duty for Ofcom to report to the Secretary of State on whether existing licensees could continue to meet their current public services obligations on a commercially sustainable basis. Subject to the Secretary of State's decision on whether the licence renewal should go ahead, Ofcom may also consider whether changes should be made to the terms of the licences.
22. Ofcom will undertake this work in due course and, as with previous licence renewal processes, there is likely to be an opportunity for interested organisations to feed in their views as part of this process.
23. Ofcom's report must be submitted to the Secretary of State by 30 June 2022 when the government will give careful consideration to Ofcom's recommendations.

Recommendation six: *The UK Government should legislate to enable an appropriate regulatory body to require Welsh language content as part of commercial radio licences in Wales, alongside introducing a regulatory category of "all-Wales news". The Welsh Government should have a formal role in setting these requirements.*

24. The government supports a strong and vibrant radio sector across the UK, with the BBC, commercial and community radio providing the widest possible choice for all radio listeners. With regard in particular to Wales and the Welsh language, we welcome the BBC's decisions in recent years to invest in local news and to develop the Radio Cymru 2 service; in addition, community radio stations - of which there are currently nine in Wales - continue to provide valuable services to the local areas that they serve, with many of these stations offering Welsh language programming.
25. It remains the government's intention to legislate to provide a regulatory structure for commercial radio that supports investment by broadcasters in content and the long-term sustainability of the sector, as the current structure falls short. As part of this, we want to maintain and where necessary strengthen the local news and information requirements on local stations, including ensuring appropriate arrangements are made to secure these requirements on local DAB radio services for the first time.

Recommendation seven: *The UK Government should regulate global streaming services to strengthen the public service media ecosystem. Such regulation could include levies to fund public service content, or requirements to carry public service content. The UK government should consider extending levies to include other large online companies, such as search engines and social networking sites.*

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26. The UK government is supportive of a modern system of public service broadcasting that remains relevant and can continue to meet the needs of UK audiences in the future. We are currently undertaking a strategic review of public service broadcasting to support this ambition.
27. The government welcomes the huge increase in choice that viewers have been given as a result of the availability of global streaming services in the UK. Many of these services commission content from production companies across the UK, including in Wales, as seen recently in the decision of Netflix to produce *Sex Education* in the nation.
28. The government nevertheless recognises that there is a difference in the obligations placed on UK domestic broadcasters and global streaming services. This is one of the issues which the government's review is considering.

Fifth Senedd Legacy Report

March 2021



The Welsh Parliament is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people. Commonly known as the Senedd, it makes laws for Wales, agrees Welsh taxes and holds the Welsh Government to account.

An electronic copy of this document can be found on the Welsh Parliament website: www.senedd.wales/SeneddCWLC

Copies of this document can also be obtained in accessible formats including Braille, large print, audio or hard copy from:

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Fifth Senedd Legacy Report

March 2021



About the Committee

The Committee was established on 28 June 2016. Its remit can be found at:
www.senedd.wales/SeneddCWLC

Committee Chair:



Bethan Sayed MS
Plaid Cymru

Current Committee membership:



Mick Antoniw MS
Welsh Labour



John Griffiths MS
Welsh Labour



Carwyn Jones MS
Welsh Labour



Helen Mary Jones MS
Plaid Cymru



David Melding MS
Welsh Conservatives

Suggested areas of scrutiny for the Sixth Senedd

Engagement

The successor committee should consider holding more formal committee meetings virtually and/or mainstreaming hybrid meetings. This would allow for greater participation from a wider range of stakeholders.

The Sixth Senedd committee should continue to innovate in its approach to engaging with the public directly to inform the work of the committee.

The successor committee should work with the Youth Parliament on scrutiny/inquiries, as well as canvassing it to hear their priorities for the next work programme.

Arts

The long term funding and delivery of music education, given its importance in nurturing the next generation of artists.

The Fifth Senedd committee explored access to culture in terms of tackling poverty and social exclusion. More can be done in future to explore access to culture from ethnically diverse backgrounds and the barriers to entry which may exist for some people.

Creative industries

The long-term challenges to the publishing industry and the Welsh Government's approach to providing financial support for literary development and publishing in both the Welsh and English languages.

The delivery of Creative Wales' programme of activity, in particular, the Welsh Government's screen strategy and commitments to addressing skills shortages in the screen industry.

The arrangements for touring artists in the EU following the UK's withdrawal from the European Union have been criticised by artists. The next committee should inquire about the financial and social implications for musicians and artists wishing to share their work in the EU.

The successor committee should monitor the Welsh Government's development and delivery of a music Action Plan.

Heritage

Progress on the delivery of the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales and the Sports Museum.

The effect of the loss of commercial income for heritage organisations such as National Museum Wales and CADW as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The delivery of the Welsh Government's response to the Committee's recommendations in the report on who should be remembered in public spaces.

The National Library's implementation of the recommendations of the recent Welsh Government tailored review.

Communications

The successor committee should ensure the Welsh Government responds to the report on the devolution of broadcasting and monitors the delivery of any commitments made in the response.

Continuing the scrutiny of public service broadcasters to ensure they deliver their commitments to increase the representation of the richness of Welsh communities in network output. A successor Committee should take evidence from Channel 4 and Channel 5 to explore their output for Welsh audiences and production in Wales.

An assessment of the extent to which public service broadcasting reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic at a UK level was accurate and its effect on raising awareness of devolved decision-making.

Looking at how Ofcom represents Welsh interests in discussions on broadcasting at a UK level.

The Welsh language

The inquiry into Welsh in a digital world, started by the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee in the Fifth Senedd should be continued by a successor Committee.

During the Fifth Senedd, the Committee has regularly sought to scrutinise the delivery of Welsh language policy and funding via the Minister with responsibility for the Welsh Language in his/her title. However, at various points, issues raised by Members have not been addressed satisfactorily by the Minister with policy oversight for the Welsh language. Too often, Member questions have been

directed to other Ministerial portfolios, such as the Minister for Education. The next committee should ensure that the Welsh Government is held accountable for cross cutting issues, such as the Welsh language.

It is important therefore that the relevant Welsh Government Minister is answerable for delivering on the Cymraeg 2050 targets that fall within his/her area of responsibility.

In the event that there is no Welsh Government Minister with responsibility for the Welsh language, the successor Committee should explore opportunities in the Sixth Senedd to hold joint-scrutiny sessions/inquiries with other committees to monitor progress on Cymraeg 2050 targets. For example, a joint-session with the committee with responsibility for education, to monitor targets to increase the number of Welsh-medium teachers and learners.

The long term effect of the COVID-19 pandemic

The ways in which heritage, the arts and cultural organisations are seeking to recover their losses or repurpose their activity as a result of the pandemic and the extent to which reducing dependence on public subsidy is still a viable approach.

The role that culture can play in Wales' economic and social recovery from the pandemic.

The next committee should ensure that national organisations with responsibility for promoting the Welsh language through participatory events, such as the Urdd, the Royal Welsh and the Eisteddfod are proactively supported in their work following severe economic losses due to the pandemic.

The next committee should inquire about the impact on the community use of the Welsh language as a result of the pandemic

Future committee remit

Members of the Sixth Senedd should convene a committee to scrutinise culture, the Welsh language and communications which would fulfil a valuable role in focussing on:

- the needs of Welsh local media and broadcasting;
- the delivery of the Welsh Government's ambition for increasing the number of Welsh speakers; and

- the work to expand access to heritage, the arts and creative industries and ensure the sector is supported following the losses from the pandemic.

The committee should seek opportunities to carry out joint scrutiny/inquiries with other committees. For instance, with the committee scrutinising the economy to look at creative industries.

Introduction

The aim of this report is not to summarise the entirety of the work done by the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee in the Fifth Senedd. Rather, it highlights some of the outcomes of the inquiries, scrutiny of policy and legislation and stakeholder engagement in the hope of reflecting areas where the Committee has had the most influence. Often the cumulative impact of sustained scrutiny in one area of government activity has proved to be effective and in some cases a single report or committee session was followed by the desired policy change or funding commitment.

It is not possible, at this point, to evaluate the longer term impact of the Committee's work. This report highlights the more immediate impact of some of the committee's work.

For each area of the remit, there are suggestions for further work which the next Senedd Committee with these responsibilities might wish to undertake. Again, this is not a complete summary of work by the Committee, this is provided in the Annex to this report.

The Chair, and Members, would like to thank witnesses and stakeholders for their contribution to the work of the committee.

Helen Mary Jones MS chaired the Committee during Bethan Sayed MS' maternity leave, our thanks to both for their leadership and commitment to raising the profile of the issues within this remit.

Remit

1. The Committee has carried out work on:

- creative industries, including live music, film and television productions;
- heritage, museums and archives;
- the arts;
- journalism and broadcasting; and
- Welsh language, including Welsh language regulations, education and promotion.

2. During the Fifth Senedd the scrutiny work of the Committee covered the following cabinet portfolios in the Welsh Government:

- the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism;
- the Minister for the Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning; later titled Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language; later titled the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language;
- the Minister for Economy, Transport and North Wales;
- the Deputy Minister and Chief Whip; and
- the Minister for Education.

1. Engagement

3. From the beginning, the Committee wanted its programme of work to be informed by the public. The committee asked the people of Wales directly to decide the subject of a future inquiry. Ideas were invited through Facebook, Twitter and by e-mail, and an event at the National Eisteddfod. Over 2,600 responded to this first poll.

4. The suggested topics included:

- how the ambition of achieving a million Welsh speakers can be achieved;
- concern at the continuing decline of local media and local news journalism;
- lack of portrayal of Wales on UK broadcast networks;
- the role of Radio in Wales; and
- the remit, funding and accountability of S4C.

5. The Committee decided it would conduct an [inquiry into the Welsh language](#) and the remaining suggestions (not listed above) were then put to a second poll for the public to vote upon. Young people in youth groups and schools, and adults through community groups, businesses and organisations took part in Outreach workshops and presentations where they completed the poll. Visitors to the [Senedd in Cardiff Bay](#) were also informed and encouraged to take part.

6. Nearly 2,500 people participated in the second poll. Forty-four per cent voted for 'Teaching of Welsh history, culture and heritage in schools'.

7. The Clerk of the Committee held a workshop with the Youth Parliament to ascertain their priorities for committee work. Their comments were fed into the terms of reference for the inquiry into Welsh in a digital world.

8. The Chair gave evidence to the UK Government's [Cairncross Review](#) on a sustainable future for journalism.

Committee on location

9. Recognising that the majority of the people the Committee would like to engage with are not always able to attend formal meetings in the Senedd building, the Committee held formal meetings and stakeholder engagement sessions in places including St Fagan’s museum, Aberystwyth Arts Centre, Tramshed Cardiff, and Tŷ Pawb in Wrexham. The Committee heard first hand from policy makers and the national broadcaster in Bilbao about their efforts to increase the number of Basque speakers as part of the inquiry into supporting and promoting the Welsh language.

Ways of working

10. All of those who responded to the consultation exercise for this report were in favour of holding more virtual committee sessions. Stakeholders felt that virtual sessions were easier for participants and allowed a wider range of people to engage with the work of the committee. For instance, Cymdeithas yr Iaith said:

“We commend the Committee for effectively managing the challenges posed by COVID-19; in particular, the Committee’s use of technology has been highly successful, and the Committee’s work has consequently been made more accessible. When the pandemic has passed, the Committee should continue to allow people to present evidence virtually, as requiring people to travel to the Senedd to give evidence to the Committee is not accessible, and it also leads to geographical bias in the evidence gathered by the Committee.”¹

11. Disability Can Do called for the Committee to ensure far more engagement with underrepresented groups in future. Allan Herbert said:

“It is essential that the committee takes it upon itself to ensure that the involvement of citizens and communities are reflected in the design and implementation of public resources as regards arts and culture. It would be beneficial to have a process of consistent citizen representation within the mechanics of the committee and that this process is transparent and publicly available.”²

¹ Cymdeithas yr Iaith written response

² Disability Can Do written response

Suggested ways of working in the Sixth Senedd:

The successor committee should consider holding more formal committee meetings virtually and/or mainstreaming hybrid meetings. This would allow for greater participation from a wider range of stakeholders.

The Sixth Senedd committee should continue to innovate in its approach to engaging with the public directly to inform the work of the committee.

The successor committee should work with the Youth Parliament on scrutiny/inquiries, as well as canvassing it to hear their priorities for the next work programme.

2. Arts

12. One of the areas that the Committee looked at is the need to democratise access to the arts. The inquiry into using [culture to tackle poverty and social exclusion](#) looked at the Welsh Government's [Fusion](#) programme and also more widely at the ways in which access for all is promoted by the Arts Council for Wales in their funding arrangements and how our flagship cultural bodies are doing outreach work.

13. Following the recommendations in this report, all those in receipt of funding from the Arts Council for Wales will be required to set out their objectives for tackling poverty in their strategic plans and the Welsh Government committed to increase the funding for Fusion programme, alongside a wholesale review of the programme against its original objectives. The Government said:

“The revised Fusion budget for 2021-22 of £430k will include the planned expansion of the coordinators network, independent evaluation and digital projects as part of the commitment to the CWLC review “count me in” in to the Fusion programme.”³

14. The Committee also looked at the opportunities to learn and play music in schools. The inquiry into [funding for and access to music education](#) found that the provision of music teaching is variable across Wales and recommended that ‘the Welsh Government should transfer responsibility for the delivery of music services to an arms-length, national body with a distinct regional delivery mechanism and footprint.’⁴

15. In response, the Welsh Government commissioned a feasibility study. Ultimately, the Minister for Education decided against establishing a new body, saying:

“There is a risk that governance arrangements will receive too much attention at the expense of more fundamental considerations as to the nature of the services that should be provided and how quality and effectiveness can be assured at the point of delivery.”⁵

³ Welsh Government Draft Budget 2021-22 Briefing paper

⁴ [Hitting the Right Note: inquiry into funding for and access to music education](#)

⁵ [Music Services Feasibility Study](#)

16. The Committee welcomed the substantial increase in funding for music education, with the Welsh Government committing £1.5m per year from 2018-19. However, the Committee feel that the delivery of music education would benefit from a comprehensive strategy and a long term funding plan and is an area which would benefit from further scrutiny.

Suggested areas of scrutiny for the Sixth Senedd:

The long term funding and delivery of music education, given its importance in nurturing the next generation of artists.

The Fifth Senedd committee explored access to culture in terms of tackling poverty and social exclusion. More can be done in future to explore access to culture from ethnically diverse backgrounds and the barriers to entry which may exist for some people.

3. Creative industries

17. This Committee heard from stakeholders that [Creative Wales](#) – the arm’s length body responsible for ‘driving growth across the creative industries’ - hit the ground running with their timely response to delivering support for those affected by the COVID-19 lockdown. The scrutiny of delivery of their ambitious programme of activities will be for the relevant committee in the Sixth Senedd.

18. The inquiry into [film and major television productions](#) found that growth in the Welsh screen industries outstripped that of the rest of the UK over the last decade. The sector is booming but the inquiry found it was unclear what role the Welsh Government has played in this success. Their flagship fund, the Media Investment Budget, had failed to deliver expected returns and stakeholders complained of a potential skills shortage. The Committee called on the Welsh Government to draw up a strategy which would take the sector to the next level.

19. In response, the Welsh Government is drawing up a screen strategy which prioritises skills and supply chain development and the promotion of Welsh culture and talent. The Government also committed to ‘Develop a framework of specialist support providers to deliver timely and responsive training to fill gaps.’⁶

20. Unfortunately the Committee did not have time to look at the promotion and support for literature beyond the review it carried out into the [findings on the Independent Review of Support for Publishing and Literature in Wales](#).

Music

21. The Committee looked at the challenges facing the [live music](#) sector in 2020. The Committee was due to recommend a funding pot to protect at risk grass roots venues in the same report, but, fortunately, this was pre-empted by the Welsh Government. Likewise, a recommendation on carrying out a venue mapping exercise was pre-empted by the Welsh Government, which has committed to repeat the exercise and extend it to include rehearsal and recording spaces. Additionally, in response to the recommendation to develop a music strategy the Welsh Government said:

“Creative Wales will be developing a pan-Wales “Action plan” rather than “Strategy” for the Commercial Music Industry in Wales. It will reflect the need for both short term actions required to assist the sector

⁶ [Welsh Government response to the report on film and television](#)

to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and longer term plans for developing the sector for a sustainable future, in a global market.”⁷

22. The inquiry into the live music sector undoubtedly raised the profile of the challenges facing the industry, coincidentally, just before the lockdown resulted in huge losses. By agreeing to establish a fund for supporting grass roots venues the Welsh Government has recognised that these venues are important incubators for future talent and cultural assets which should be supported. Previously, live music venues were too ‘commercial’ to qualify for assistance from the Arts Council for Wales and not large enough to get assistance from Business Wales. The Committee’s work in this area has successfully drawn government attention to the value of grassroots venues.

23. Creative Industries are a vital growth area for the Welsh economy. For instance, the Committee heard from Tim Davie, BBC Director General, that:

”It is a growth area; it was growing four times the speed of the wider economy going into COVID. We need Wales to capture its fair share, at minimum, of that growth coming out, and there are really good signs that we can make that happen.”⁸

24. In order to capitalise on the opportunities for growth in creative industries and to raise the profile of the arts, culture and heritage, this portfolio would be better served with a Ministerial, not a Deputy Ministerial post.

Suggested areas of scrutiny for the Sixth Senedd:

The long-term challenges to the publishing industry and the Welsh Government’s approach to providing financial support for literary development and publishing in both the Welsh and English languages.

The delivery of Creative Wales’ programme of activity, in particular, the Welsh Government’s screen strategy and commitments to addressing skills shortages in the screen industry.

The arrangements for touring artists in the EU following the UK’s withdrawal from the European Union have been criticised by artists. The next committee

⁷ [Welsh Government response to the report on the live music industry](#)

⁸ CWLC committee 4 March 2021, para 14

should inquire about the financial and social implications for musicians and artists wishing to share their work in the EU.

The successor committee should monitor the Welsh Government's development and delivery of a music Action Plan.

4. Heritage

25. The Committee completed inquiries into the historic environment, the teaching of Welsh history in the new curriculum and the effect of the pandemic on heritage, museums and archives.

26. As well as inquiries, the Committee carried out annual scrutiny sessions with the relevant Government sponsored bodies. Following these sessions, the Committee repeatedly called for increased capital investment in the National Library for Wales and the National Museum Wales. For instance, in November 2019 the Committee heard from David Anderson, the Director of the National Museum Wales, that ‘backlog maintenance and preventative maintenance is probably now somewhere around about £50 million’.⁹

27. The Committee also called for increased funding for the National Library to mitigate what the FDA union described as ‘over a decade of cuts to grant in aid’¹⁰ and to reassure staff there would be no redundancies.

28. In February 2021 the Welsh Government announced additional funding of £6.2m over two years for the National Library of Wales and for National Museum Wales, saying the funding will ‘mitigate against job losses whilst also supporting both organisations with operational costs.’¹¹

29. In December 2018 the Committee was made aware that the business case for a Heritage Lottery Fund grant of £5m to establish a National Broadcast Archive for Wales was at risk. Following the Committee’s intervention to bring the interested parties together at the earliest opportunity the outstanding issues were resolved. The Welsh Government committed funding of £1m to the National Library for Wales and the Heritage Lottery Fund grant was secured.

Suggested areas of scrutiny for the Sixth Senedd:

Progress on the delivery of the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales and the Sports Museum.

⁹ CWLC committee 14 November 2019, para 10

¹⁰ FDA correspondence

¹¹ [Welsh Government statement](#)

The effect of the loss of commercial income for heritage organisations such as National Museum Wales and CADW as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The delivery of the Welsh Government's response to the Committee's recommendations in the report on who should be remembered in public spaces.

The National Library's implementation of the recommendations of the recent Welsh Government tailored review.

5. Communications

30. For the first time the issues affecting journalism, local media and broadcasting were looked at in depth by a Senedd committee.

31. The Committee carried out an inquiry into news journalism in 2018 which found that the impact in Wales from the decline in traditional print newspapers has had a greater impact because the Welsh media is smaller and less diverse than other parts of the UK. The report recommended that the Welsh Government should formally recognise that supporting public interest journalism in Wales is a strategic priority and fundamental to democracy in Wales.

32. Following this inquiry, the Welsh Government provided £100,000 annually to support providers in hyper-local news.

33. In December 2020, when pressed on the continued need to support English language journalism, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism said he hoped to ‘be able to bring forward a scheme that could offer arm’s-length support.’¹² This was confirmed in January 2021 when he said:

“those developments are ongoing, but the model will be similar to the Welsh language model, with collaboration with the Welsh Books Council, who are of course now part of Creative Wales.”¹³

34. The Fifth Senedd saw a consistent approach to annual scrutiny of public service broadcasters in Wales for the first time. During these sessions the Committee has sought to alert decision-makers at a UK level to the fact that Wales is not as well represented as the rest of the UK.

35. For instance, in the report on initial views on broadcasting in 2017 the Committee recommended that the BBC should:

“provide an additional £30 million annually for English language drama and broadcasting about Wales”, which ‘would potentially allow for a doubling of the output and for BBC Wales to produce quality programmes that have a better chance of earning a place on the BBC

¹² Plenary debate 2 December 2020

¹³ CWLC committee 14 January 2021, para 94

network'.¹⁴ The BBC has since committed to investing an additional £8.5 million per year in English language programming for Wales.¹⁵

36. In the same report, the Committee recommended that ITV 'adopts a more pro-active approach to developing programmes for broadcast on the ITV network including setting specific goals for developing network output from Wales, which reflects life in Wales'.¹⁶

37. The Committee's report on the future of S4C pre-empted and informed the independent review of S4C, presented to the UK Government's Department for Culture, Media and Sport ('DCMS') in 2017. The Committee said that cuts in funding for Welsh language broadcaster S4C 'have been both severe and disproportionate' and are having 'a lasting and severe impact on its ability to provide its service'.¹⁷

38. The DCMS accepted all of the recommendations of the independent review, including the need to update S4C's public service remit to 'include digital and online services and remove the current geographical broadcasting restrictions. [To] allow S4C to broaden its reach and offer its content on a range of new platforms in the UK and beyond'.¹⁸

39. In November 2020 the UK Government formally began the process to agree the level of the licence fee from 2022. This is the first time that the licence fee will also cover all of the public funding provided to S4C. The importance of the licence fee debate and the challenges facing Welsh language content providers are explored in the Committee report on the devolution of broadcasting. One of the recommendations in the report, following much discussion on the viability of future regulatory and funding models, is that the UK Government should devolve powers over S4C and other public service Welsh language broadcasting matters to Wales.

40. The report also called for the Welsh Government to have an enhanced role in setting the terms of the next Channel 3 licence in Wales, which should include a requirement to produce a greater proportion of network content in Wales.

¹⁴ The Big Picture: The Committee's initial views about broadcasting in Wales

¹⁵ Ibid

¹⁶ The Big Picture: The Committee's initial views about broadcasting in Wales, February 2017

¹⁷ Outside the box: The future of S4C, August 2017

¹⁸ UK Government response to the S4C Independent Review: building an S4C for the Future

41. The inquiry into radio in 2018 found that the deregulation of commercial radio broadcasting happened in a way which did not benefit Welsh audiences. The Committee recommended the UK Government should introduce a regulatory requirement for commercial radio stations in Wales to report on distinctly Welsh news, as well as local and UK news as part of its reform of commercial radio. It also called for the BBC to explore options to enable a Wales opt-out on network radio services and to set itself more stretching targets for UK network radio content from Wales.¹⁹

42. The same report looked at the challenges facing community radio and recommended that the Welsh Government consider introducing a new fund to support the sector, taking account of any synergies between community radio and other hyperlocal news providers. In looking at the effect of the pandemic on local media the Committee heard of the vital role community radio played in providing timely and accurate information about lockdown regulations.

43. During the Fifth Senedd, the Committee wrote to Ofcom to:

- Say that the BBC's request to amend the Operating Licence to remove the 100% speech quota at breakfast time was a dilution of Welsh-specific content for Welsh audiences;
- to argue against Ofcom's proposal to merge the whole of Wales into a single 'approved area' for the sake of determining the proportion of 'locally-made' commercial radio hours which stations are required to produce to enable them to meet their licence obligations;
- to voice support for a Wales news opt-out for BBC Radio 1 and Radio 2;

44. Reflecting on the way these issues were dealt with at a UK level, the next Committee may choose to look at how Wales' needs are being advocated for when decisions on broadcasting regulations are being discussed.

Suggested areas of scrutiny for the Sixth Senedd:

The successor committee should ensure the Welsh Government responds to the report on the devolution of broadcasting and monitors the delivery of any commitments made in the response.

¹⁹ Tuning in: Inquiry into radio in Wales, December 2018

<https://senedd.wales/laid%20documents/cr-ld11993/cr-ld11993-e.pdf>

Continuing the scrutiny of public service broadcasters to ensure they deliver their commitments to increase the representation of the richness of Welsh communities in network output. A successor Committee should take evidence from Channel 4 and Channel 5 to explore their output for Welsh audiences and production in Wales.

An assessment of the extent to which public service broadcasting reporting on the COVID-19 pandemic at a UK level was accurate and its effect on raising awareness of devolved decision-making.

Look at how Ofcom represents Welsh interests in discussions on broadcasting at a UK level.

6. Welsh language

45. The Committee carried out two inquiries on issues relating to the Welsh language. The first, looked at the Welsh Government’s Welsh language strategy which aimed to create one million Welsh speakers by 2050, that is, to almost double the number of Welsh speakers in Wales in just over a generation.

46. The Committee’s main concerns during the inquiry were the lack of detail in the strategy about how this will be achieved, the lack of resources; reliance in the strategy on the maintained education sector and that Local Authorities had not done enough to stimulate demand for increased Welsh medium provision in public services.

47. In response to the Committee’s recommendations, the Welsh Government agreed to include targets about the number of additional teachers needed to teach through the medium of Welsh. Since the report was published, progress on meeting these targets has fallen well below what is needed. The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language told the Committee in February 2021:

“There has been a great deal of effort made, but of course we are disappointed that we haven’t reached that target and we are highly aware that we need to do a lot more work.”²⁰

48. The Sixth Senedd committee with responsibility for the Welsh language should assess progress against targets in the Cymraeg 2050 strategy, prioritising the targets for Welsh medium teachers and education.

49. The second inquiry looked at how the Welsh Government is supporting and promoting the Welsh language, spurred on by the Government’s White Paper proposals for a new Welsh Language Bill in August 2017.

50. The Committee heard evidence that the current Welsh language standards framework is complex and bureaucratic, and that the complaints system is considered excessively long and burdensome. However, the Committee also heard that the current framework provides certainty for organisations, as well as strong rights for Welsh speakers. The Committee concluded that the focus on legislation had deflected attention and resources away from the “softer” elements of language planning, specifically promotion of the language. Lack of clarity in

²⁰ CWLC Committee, 25 February 2021, para 21

roles and responsibility between the Welsh Government and the Welsh Language Commissioner was also a concern.

51. As a result of the recommendations in the report, the Welsh Government and Welsh Language Commissioner agreed a Memorandum of Understanding to clarify their relevant functions. The process for addressing complaints has also been streamlined and sped up. A new multi-disciplinary team called Prosiect 2050 has been established in Government to drive planning, promotion and behaviour change.

52. The Welsh Government withdrew the White Paper proposals, saying it had noted:

“the evidence received by the Committee during this review. When preparing standards in future we will consider how they can be streamlined and prepared in a way which reduces bureaucracy for the bodies which comply with them, while ensuring that they continue to bestow clear rights on service users.”²¹

53. There are many actors involved in supporting and promoting the language in Wales. One such actor is the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (‘CCC’). The CCC leads on the development of Welsh-medium and bilingual education and training in the post-compulsory sector in Wales. This includes developing and improving Welsh-medium courses, and increasing the number of bilingual staff in the post-16 sector. The Committee heard, as part of its recent scrutiny of the Welsh Government’s Draft Budget 2021-22, that the sector needs ‘suitable resources’²² in order to deliver the ambitions in the Action Plan agreed in 2018.

54. The CCC wrote to the Committee Chair in January, noting that it anticipated a need for the Welsh Government to invest £800,000 for 2021-22, increasing to £1.4m in 2022-23, £2.5m in 2023-24 and £3.2m in 2024-25 in order for it to ensure a significant increase in Welsh-medium provision.

55. As a result of the Committee’s scrutiny, and Member scrutiny in Senedd Plenary sessions, the Welsh Government’s Final Budget 2021-22 included an additional £800,000 of funding for the CCC.

²¹ [Welsh Government response to the report on supporting and promoting the Welsh language](#)

²² Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol correspondence

- 56.** In 2019, following the results of the Committee’s public poll, in which 40 per cent of respondents stated they wanted the Committee to look into the teaching of Welsh history, the Committee undertook a full inquiry into the issue.
- 57.** With proposals for wide ranging changes to the school curriculum, the Committee found a high degree of concern from teachers, history societies, pupils and academics, that children do not know the story of their community or country and that often children commented that they learnt more Welsh history in a Welsh language lesson than from their history teacher. These concerns were growing as a result of the planned changes to the curriculum.
- 58.** In line with the recommendation in the report on teaching of Welsh history, Estyn will carry out a review of the current teaching of Welsh history in schools. This review will provide evidence of the extent to which schools are currently meeting the requirements of the GCSE, AS and A level specifications on teaching Welsh content.
- 59.** The Committee was disappointed that the Welsh Government rejected the recommendation to ‘include guidance which sets out a common body of knowledge for all pupils studying history’²³ in the new curriculum.
- 60.** The Committee were in the initial stages of a new inquiry into Welsh in a digital world in 2020. The inquiry aimed to evaluate the aims and objectives of the Welsh language technology action plan and how the Welsh Government is working with other partners and technology companies to influence the tech sector. However, the work was put on hold when the COVID-19 pandemic shifted the Committee’s priorities.

Suggested areas of scrutiny for the Sixth Senedd

The inquiry into Welsh in a digital world, started by the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee in the Fifth Senedd should be continued by a successor Committee.

During the Fifth Senedd, the Committee has regularly sought to scrutinise the delivery of Welsh language policy and funding via the Minister with responsibility for the Welsh Language in his/her title. However, at various points, issues raised by Members have not been addressed satisfactorily by the Minister with policy oversight for the Welsh language. Too often, Member questions have been directed to other Ministerial portfolios, such as the Minister for Education.

²³ Report on Teaching of Welsh History

The next committee should ensure that the Welsh Government is held accountable for cross cutting issues, such as the Welsh language.

It is important therefore that the relevant Welsh Government Minister is answerable for delivering on the Cymraeg 2050 targets that fall within his/her area of responsibility.

In the event that there is no Welsh Government Minister with responsibility for the Welsh language, the successor Committee should explore opportunities in the Sixth Senedd to hold joint-scrutiny sessions/inquiries with other committees to monitor progress on Cymraeg 2050 targets. For example, a joint-session with the committee with responsibility for education, to monitor targets to increase the number of Welsh-medium teachers and learners.

7. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic

61. Due to the impact of the pandemic, the work of the Committee was paused in March, before restarting virtually in May 2020. The effect on individuals and organisations was sudden and significant. The inability to raise commercial revenue and the loss of opportunities to come together and enjoy cultural activities had a severe impact on all committee stakeholders. The long term financial and social effects of the pandemic are a topic for scrutiny in the next Senedd.

62. The Committee held a series of short inquiries into the effect of the pandemic on all areas of its remit, publishing six reports between June and December 2020. Due to the pressure of work on the Health and Social Care Committee, this committee also looked at sport.

63. There were common themes including:

- the sudden and dramatic loss of income felt by organisations which had to close;
- the anxiety from not knowing when venues could reopen again; and
- the fact that the majority of those who work in the arts and creative industries are freelancers and fell through the gaps of employment support from the UK Government.

64. The majority of organisations under the Committee’s remit exist for the purpose of participatory activities, including live music venues, museums, Welsh language promotion and dance recitals. All were forced to pause their work for over a year.

65. Cultural organisations have been encouraged by the Welsh Government to reduce reliance on public subsidy in order to increase their resilience as funding from the Welsh Government and National Lottery has fallen by over 10 per cent in the last decade.²⁴ The Committee heard from the Chief Executive of the Arts Council for Wales, Nick Capaldi, that ‘Ironically, those organisations that are least dependent on public funding have been the ones hardest hit’.²⁵

²⁴ [Building resilience: inquiry into non-public funding of the arts](#)

²⁵ [Short report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the arts](#)

66. National organisations which are beacons of good practice in promoting and increasing Welsh language use and learning - such as the Urdd and the National Eisteddfod - are facing significant financial challenges. The Committee recommended that short-term reprioritisation of funds, for instance from The National Centre for Learning Welsh to the central COVID fund, do not result in long term changes to allocations. Such measures could detract from achieving the goal of a million Welsh-speakers by 2050.²⁶

67. The COVID-19 inquiries found:

- The pandemic prompted a move to digital engagement and delivery. For this to be successful long term it requires increased spending on training and access to fast, reliable broadband infrastructure;
- The need to re-evaluate funding models which encourage organisations to reduce reliance on public subsidies;
- The freelance workers in the cultural sector have consistently fallen through the gaps of UK Government employment support, and support from the Welsh Government has not been able to meet demand;
- The need to evaluate the provision of financial support to individuals and organisations provided during the lockdown; and
- The need to evaluate the long term impact of the lockdown on heritage, museums, archives, performance venues, Welsh language festivals and participation in sports.

Suggested areas of scrutiny in the Sixth Senedd:

The ways in which heritage, the arts and cultural organisations are seeking to recover their losses or repurpose their activity as a result of the pandemic and the extent to which reducing dependence on public subsidy is still a viable approach.

The role that culture can play in Wales' economic and social recovery from the pandemic.

The next committee should ensure that national organisations with responsibility for promoting the Welsh language through participatory events,

²⁶ [Short report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Welsh language](#)

such as the Urdd, the Royal Welsh and the Eisteddfod are proactively supported in their work following severe economic losses due to the pandemic.

The next committee should inquire about the impact on the community use of the Welsh language as a result of the pandemic.

8. Future committee remit

68. In January 2021, the Committee wrote to stakeholders to ask:

- What lessons can be learned from the experience of the Committee and its scrutiny of the portfolio in advance of the Sixth Senedd?
- What have been the strengths and weaknesses of the Committee's remit including whether it enabled the Committee to work effectively?
- Do you and your organisation have a view on the Committee's ways of working? Are there any new ways of working that could be adopted in future? You may wish to consider its approach to evidence-gathering, scrutiny of the Welsh Government, and new virtual ways of working.

69. Those who responded, were in favour of establishing a committee with a similar remit in the Sixth Senedd. For instance, Efa Gruffudd Jones, from The National Centre for Learning Welsh, said:

“My main word of advice for the next Senedd would be that continuing to have a committee that gives due attention to policy issues related to the Welsh language is vital, and that the very existence of the committee itself has enhanced the status of this policy area.”²⁷

70. Both Dathlu'r Gymraeg and the Welsh Language Commissioner argued that the Sixth Senedd Committee should scrutinise Welsh language issues across a greater range of organisations and Welsh Government portfolios. The Commissioner said:

“Welsh language in the health and care sector is just one example of this, with a real need to scrutinize how the implementation of strategies and legislation in the field affect opportunities to use the Welsh language.”²⁸

71. Members asked the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language if she would be supportive of a successor committee with the Welsh language as a central part of its remit. The Minister said:

²⁷ The National Centre for Learning Welsh written response

²⁸ Welsh Language Commissioner written response

“I think it’s really helpful to me as a Minister in relation to the Welsh language... I would suggest that actually, rather than just holding me to account when it comes to the budget, and looking at my tiny budget... that actually you ask the other Ministers, who’ve got huge amounts of money, what they’re doing within their budgets in relation to the Welsh language.”²⁹

72. The Institute for Welsh Affairs called for a committee to look into media and democracy in Wales in their 2015 Media Audit. Commenting on the continuing need to ‘highlight the democratic deficit Wales faces as a result of an increasingly under-resourced media’, it said:

“We believe that the Sixth Senedd must retain a committee with a remit to focus on broadcasting and news in Wales, and that sitting these issues within a remit to look at the health of the wider creative economy remains a wise approach.”³⁰

73. ITV Cymru Wales endorsed the committee’s current remit and outlined the value it had in raising the profile of issues facing public service broadcasters. Phil Henfrey said:

“I would say that the committee’s remit has certainly allowed us to discuss not just our Channel 3 licensed service but also the work we are doing across our growing production businesses, our network output - featuring programming that celebrates the best of Wales before an all-UK audience - and our increasingly important online and social media platforms. On that basis it seems very much fit for purpose.”³¹

74. This is only the second time in the Senedd’s history that the Welsh language, has been included in the title of a committee, and the first time ‘communications’ has had this prominence. By highlighting the importance of these topics the committee has raised the profile of issues such as journalism and broadcasting. This has resulted in policy recommendations which seek to address the urgency of changes in these fields.

75. The Committee wants to ensure that these gains are built on, not lost in the next Senedd.

²⁹ CWLC Committee, 25 February 2021, para 137

³⁰ Institute for Welsh Affairs written response

³¹ ITV Cymru Wales written response

Suggested remit of a successor committee in the Sixth Senedd:

Members of the Sixth Senedd should convene a committee to scrutinise culture, the Welsh language and communications which would fulfil a valuable role in focussing on:

- the needs of Welsh local media and broadcasting;
- the delivery of the Welsh Government's ambition for increasing the number of Welsh speakers; and
- the work to expand access to heritage, the arts and creative industries and ensure the sector is supported following the losses from the pandemic.

The committee should seek opportunities to carry out joint scrutiny/inquiries with other committees. For instance, with the committee scrutinising the economy to look at creative industries.

9. Annex: Legislation referred to the Committee

76. The Committee scrutinised three sets of Welsh language regulations during this Senedd. They were:

- The Welsh Language Standards (No. 6) Regulations 2017;
- The Welsh Language Standards (No.7) Regulations 2018;
- National Health Service (Welsh Language in Primary Care Services) (Miscellaneous Amendments) (Wales) Regulations 2019.

77. The 2017 regulations applied to organisations in the higher and further education sector and the 2018 regulations applied to organisations in the health sector. They specified service delivery standards, policy making standards, operational standards and record keeping standards. They also enabled the Welsh Language Commissioner to issue Compliance Notices to the organisations named in the regulations, in relation to the standards specified. The 2019 regulations placed duties relating to the Welsh language, on independent primary care providers in Wales through the terms of their agreements with Local Health Boards.

78. The Committee was critical of the Welsh Government's failure to involve the Committee earlier in the consultation process on the first two sets of regulations. For instance, the regulations on duties for primary care providers were introduced via the Senedd's Negative Resolution procedure and the timing in June 2019 meant that the Committee had just ten working days to scrutinise and report on them.

79. Following this, the draft Welsh Language Standards (No.8) Regulations for healthcare regulators and the Professional Standards Authority were shared with the Committee when they were issued for consultation in May 2020. The Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language wrote to the Committee in January 2021 to say that they 'will not be brought forward in this Senedd term'.

Annex: Work of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Arts and culture	
Committee's findings on the Independent Review of Support for Publishing and Literature in Wales	March 2018
Building resilience: inquiry into non-public funding of the arts	March 2018
Hitting the right note: inquiry into funding for and access to music education	June 2018
Inquiry into film and major television production in Wales	May 2019
Count me in! Tackling poverty and social exclusion through culture, heritage and the arts	November 2019
Turn up the volume: inquiry into the live music industry	December 2020
Short report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the arts	June 2020
Short report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the creative industries	July 2020
Welsh Language	
Achieving the ambition: inquiry into the Welsh Government's new Welsh language strategy report	May 2017
Report on supporting and promoting the Welsh language	July 2019
Teaching of Welsh history report	November 2019
Short report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Welsh language	December 2020
Annual scrutiny of the Welsh Language Commissioner	
Communications	
The Big Picture: the Committee's initial views on broadcasting in Wales	February 2017
Outside the box: the future of S4C	August 2017
Read all about it: Inquiry into news journalism in Wales	May 2018
Tuning in: inquiry into radio in Wales	December 2018
A short report into community radio in Wales	November 2019
Devolution of Broadcasting	March 2021

Short report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on journalism and local media	September 2020
Annual scrutiny of public sector broadcasters – ITV, BBC and S4C	
Heritage	
Past and Present – Report of an Inquiry into the Historic Environment	March 2018
Short report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on heritage, museums and archives	August 2020
Set in Stone? A report on who gets remembered in public spaces	March 2021
Sport	
Short report on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on sport	June 2020
Scrutiny	
Brexit, the arts sector, creative industries, heritage and the Welsh language	December 2018

Annex: Written consultation responses

All responses have been published on the Committee's website:

[Fifth Senedd Legacy - Culture, Welsh Language and Communications](#)

Reference	Organisation
LEG01	Dyfodol i'r Iaith Gymraeg
LEG02	The Welsh Language Society
LEG03	ITV Cymru Wales
LEG04	University of South Wales
LEG05	WLGA
LEG06	NEU Cymru
LEG07	Institute of Welsh Affairs
LEG08	Dathlu'r Gymraeg
LEG09	National Centre for Learning Welsh
LEG10	National Museum Wales
LEG11	Welsh Language Commissioner
LEG12	National Union of Journalists
LEG13	Wales YFC
LEG14	Disability Can Do
LEG15	Cadw



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DET/509/21

Bethan Sayed AS/MS
Chair
Culture, Welsh Language and Communication Committee

12 March 2021

Dear Bethan,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February on behalf of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee regarding the impact of COVID-19 on sport.

You have raised a number of important points and I will address these in the order that you have raised them.

Recommendation 1.

The Welsh Government should work with Sport Wales and others to conduct further research on the impact of the pandemic on levels of participation in physical activity on groups with protected characteristics in order to inform post-pandemic planning and policy. This research must include an assessment of the impact on participation for women, the BAME community, and on children and young people.

Sport Wales has commissioned Savanta ComRes with a view of gaining an insight into the nation's habits and behaviours during the Coronavirus pandemic. This insight has taken place on two occasions (May and October 2020). Both studies contain specific data for protected characteristic groups including participation rates for women and children, and those from lower socio-economic groups, however, sample sizes were not sufficient to report on BAME communities with confidence. A summary of the results for both iterations of the survey can be seen here:

<https://www.sport.wales/research-and-insight/comres-research/>

In addition to these figures, Sport Wales is in the process of commissioning Savanta ComRes to conduct another survey to ensure we continue to track the impact of the pandemic on participation figures, both among protected characteristic groups and the wider population.

Moreover, the National Survey for Wales reported its participation findings in April 2020, capturing the pre-Covid-19 period. This gives data for women, children and the BAME community. Sport Wales is currently in the process of undertaking the 2020/21 National

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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.

Survey for Wales and will utilise that publication as a comparison over the course of the pandemic year to explore further the impact on these individual groups.

Sport Wales has also commissioned two systematic reviews via a partnership with the university sector in Wales in the Welsh Institute of Physical Activity, Health and Sport (WIPAHS). The first is a systematic review of the effect of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic on sedentary behaviour in children and adults. The other is a systematic review of the developing socioecological model to assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on correlates of physical activity and sedentary behaviour. Both reviews will provide academic research into the impact of Covid-19 to help shape the way in which targeted interventions can be undertaken in future.

Alongside Sport England, Sport Scotland, Sport NI and UK Sport, in collaboration, Sport Wales have commissioned the Sport Industry Research Centre at Sheffield Hallam University to undertake a data gathering exercise on race in sport as well as AKD Solutions who are undertaking a lived experience study. This work when brought together, as well as our other areas of research and understanding of race in sport will support both Sport Wales and their partners in their post-pandemic approach to engagement with the BAME community.

Recommendation 2.

When conditions (in terms of controlling the virus) allow, the Welsh Government must ensure that gyms, sport venues, and other exercise settings (including group exercise classes that meet outdoors) are among the priorities when coming out of lockdown.

The Welsh Government wants to ensure people are able to take part in sport and leisure as soon as possible but only when the scientific evidence suggests that it is safe to do so. The regulations will be reviewed every 21 days.

Recommendation 3.

We would welcome more detail on how the maximum number of 30 was decided on. To enable us to do this, the Welsh Government should publish the scientific evidence upon which this rule is based. Furthermore, the Welsh Government should outline what assessment it has made of the impact that a 30 person limit will have on the resumption of sport activities particularly at grassroots level.

The number of 30 outdoors was part of the original unlocking process and adopted for consistency across the four nations, whilst avoiding mass gatherings. It was a general rule that applied, rather than something designed specifically for sport. It had the incidental benefit of allowing some team sports to resume.

Recommendation 4.

The Welsh Government should outline its view on:

- **the conditions that would enable piloting of safe spectator sporting events;**

Our Coronavirus Control Plan, published in December, explains the conditions under which we would move between the different alert levels. Test events will be considered at alert level two and the return of spectators to stadia, in restricted numbers, will be considered at alert level one.

- **the relationship between the vaccination programme and the return of spectators to sporting events;**

Our vaccination programme goes from strength to strength. We hope over time, vaccines can help us move away from the need for very strict lockdown-type restrictions and will help to protect us against the risk of serious illness. However, the pandemic has taken another turn as we have seen the emergence of new variants in the UK and overseas, which may increase the risk of severe disease, the rate of infection and may even limit the effectiveness of the current vaccines. These changes and uncertainties mean we need to take a more cautious approach to coming out of lockdown. We can indicate that the restrictions set out in alert level three are the first step we are working towards. The rollout of the vaccine to the next five priority groups by the end of April also provides another clear milestone against which we expect to re-evaluate our approach based on the latest evidence.

- **details of any engagement it is having with Welsh clubs playing in the English football league to ensure joined-up thinking and an update on the current timescales that it is working towards in that regard.**

The Welsh Government has regular dialogue, directly and through the stakeholder engagement groups, with a range of clubs, organisations and sport governing bodies. We will provide as much notice as possible about the changes we are prioritising for upcoming review periods and will work with organisations to support them to return in as safe a way as possible.

Recommendation 5.

The Welsh Government should respond to the concerns of EMDUK regarding Phase 2 of the Sport Freelancers Fund. In particular, the effectiveness of arrangements to support self-employed people within the sector.

Since the initial Sport Freelancer Fund was launched, Sport Wales has delivered a second round of this support mechanism. Increasing the initial £1,500 offering to £2,500 for all previous and new successful freelancers. The fund has been able to support 1,090 freelancers with an investment of £2.75m.

In addition, the Sport Private Provider Fund was also launched, which allows many freelancers who have been able to evidence substantial losses also being able to access support. This fund, as well as supporting freelancers, has been able to provide much needed financial support to a wide section of the commercial sport sector. Although the fund closed on February 19, applications continue to be assessed and it is anticipated that more than 400 commercial providers will be successful in their applications. It is worth noting that these remain the only schemes of their kind across the UK.

Recommendation 6

In terms of the Spectator Sports Survival Fund, the Welsh Government should:

- **provide more detail on the rationale behind allocating the vast proportion of the Fund to Rugby Union;**

The level of funding provided is proportionate to the scale of the losses reported by each sport and the funding they have already received from other sources. The funding for rugby union reflects the losses the four regions have suffered as well as those suffered

by the WRU – principally the Wales v Scotland 2020 Six Nations fixture; the 2020 Autumn Nations Cup; and the 2021 Six Nations.

- **confirm whether this funding has been re-allocated from spending elsewhere or is it new money;**

The funding is new money allocated from within the Covid-19 revenue reserve.

- **confirm the timescales for reaching a decision in relation to any additional funding mentioned in the written statement from 29 January 2021; and**

We will continue to monitor the situation, particularly in relation to summer sports over coming months, and will review the situation fully in September 2021 to consider if any further support is required, in the context of how the pandemic has evolved and the funding position at that time.

- **confirm whether there are any conditions attached to the funding provided to governing bodies, if so, how will the Welsh Government ensure that funding is fairly distributed among different tiers and levels of activity – particularly the grassroots level.**

The grant offered to the governing bodies will reflect the Welsh Government's standard terms and conditions and the priorities for which the funding was agreed.

- **We also previously heard concerns regarding the financial sustainability of leisure trusts, given the extended reduction in incomes they have faced. What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the financial sustainability of leisure trusts, and what financial support is available to help those trusts that need it to survive the pandemic?"**

Economic studies recently commissioned by Sport Wales suggest that Welsh Leisure and Culture Trusts continue to incur significant monthly costs, even with the closure of leisure clubs. Furthermore, the studies suggest that the suspending and/or deferring of membership by clubs and leisure centres only postpones the cashflow problem to a later date. The commissioned studies also highlight concern for self-employed coaches working in the outdoor sector and in the outdoor centres across Wales, who will be unable to recoup lost income from the winter season, if travel restrictions remain in place over the summer months.

With regards to financial support provided, core support for leisure trusts was agreed to be provided via the Local Authority Hardship Fund. However, in addition to this, a total of £572k was also distributed directly to leisure trusts via Sport Wales's repurposed funding through the Sport Resilience Fund at the start of the pandemic.

Further to this, as part of the Sport and Leisure Recovery Package, announced by Welsh Government, Sport Wales made further grants totalling £2.5m to local authorities to distribute (including to leisure trusts).

Recommendation 7

We would welcome an update on the Welsh Government's post-pandemic recovery planning to include:

- **detail on how it is engaging with the sport and health sectors to ensure a joined-up approach to policy-making;**

As the pandemic has challenged the status quo of so many aspects of how we live and work in Wales, our refreshed 2021-22 Health Weight: Healthy Wales (HW:HW) Delivery Plan will ensure that physical activity is embedded in our recovery plans and will place a focus upon both our physical and mental wellbeing. This is being launched by the Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and Welsh Language on 18 March. The plan sets out a range of approaches which will integrate work across both sport and health sectors to ensure that we can drive targeted approaches.

For example, the pandemic has disrupted regular activities and exercise routines. We want to increase opportunities to be physically active, this is central to enable good physical and mental wellbeing. That is why as part of Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales we have invested £600k for Sport Wales to develop a 60 Plus Active Leisure Scheme offer. This will enable Sport Wales to continue to deliver targeted physical activity opportunities to contribute to a reduction in health inequalities amongst the 60 plus population that are currently inactive or the least active in 2021-22. Through the funding, Sport Wales are working through Local Authorities to deliver targeted provision to those who are currently inactive or the least active. This will work with the health sector through areas linked to National Exercise Referral Scheme and social prescribing.

Sport Wales and Public Health Wales are jointly delivering the Healthy and Active Fund, which represents a significant commitment of £5.4 million over three years to support projects which aim to sustainably increase the physical activity of those who are currently sedentary or have very low levels of activity and improve levels of mental wellbeing, with a particular focus on strengthening community assets. The 17 successful projects offer support to a range of different demographics and ages across the life course and we are working to develop common evaluation and monitoring tools to help support and evidence delivery.

- **the implications of the rollout of mass vaccination for the COVID-19 recovery timetable; and**
- **what lessons it has learnt from the pandemic about the preventative health benefits of physical activity. Will this experience lead to a step-change in this area, and if so, how will this be achieved?**

Although the full impact is not yet known, the pandemic has likely exacerbated physical inactivity and caused a rise in sedentary behaviour. Sport Wales report that there is currently no data on what impact the pandemic has had on physical activity, but lockdowns, movement restrictions, gym closures and other measures have disrupted regular activities and exercise routines. However, before the crisis, data from the National Survey for Wales 2019-20 adult lifestyle showed that only 53% of adults reported being active for at least 150 minutes in the previous week.

Regular physical activity can prevent and help manage heart disease, diabetes and cancer and reduce depression and anxiety, cognitive decline and can boost brain health. There are also established links between physical inactivity and obesity, which has proven to be a contributory factor for poorer outcomes related to Covid-19. The pandemic has highlighted the continued need to place a focus upon non-communicable disease.

The COVID-19 crisis has altered patterns of physical activity in ways that were unimaginable before the outbreak. Enforced restrictions on mobility and the closure of sporting activities and indoor gyms has highlighted the limitations of many areas for enabling physical activity and reinforced inequalities in physical activity opportunities.

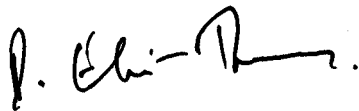
For example, we know that there are risks regarding sedentary behaviours with increased working from home. However, unprecedented reductions in mobility and increases in localised physical activity has also empowered people to think more about their health and wellbeing and has connected people more to spaces in their local areas.

We will be investing £6.5m into our Healthy Weight: Healthy Wales 2021-22 delivery plan which will develop target approaches through an over 60s leisure offer, develop local pilots through a children and families programme and develop systems based approaches which will place communities at the heart of decision making. There are significant opportunities through our green spaces and we will work through programmes such as the Valleys Regional Park to help us empower local communities.

As part of the delivery plan we will also be developing a National Daily Active Offer through schools which will place a focus upon bringing together a range of partners and programmes to take a more co-ordinated approach to encourage physical activity before, during and after school. This will consider a range of evidence linked to behavioural change from the pandemic.

I trust that you will find these responses helpful. I would like to thank the Committee members for their work which has undoubtedly provoked some useful discussion and will help us to respond positively to the ongoing challenges faced by the sector.

Yours sincerely,



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Agenda Item 5

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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Agenda Item 6

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Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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