

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

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Video Conference via Zoom	Lleu Williams
Meeting date: 15 September 2021	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.30	0300 200 6565
	SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

In accordance with Standing Order 34.19, the Chair has determined that the public are excluded from attending the Committee's meeting in order to protect public health. This meeting will be broadcast live on www.senedd.tv

Registration and private pre-meeting

(09.00–09.30)

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Ministerial scrutiny session: Minister for Economy and Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport and Chief Whip

(09.30–11.00)

(Pages 1 – 9)

Vaughan Gething MS, Minister for Economy

Dawn Bowden MS, Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Chief Whip

Jason Thomas, Director, Culture, Sport and Tourism

Sioned Evans, Director, Business and Regions

Welsh Government written evidence paper

Research brief



3 Papers to note

(11.00)

- 3.1 Joint letter from the Chair of Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee and the Chair of Equality and Social Justice Committee to the Minister for Social Justice on the Welsh Government's response to the Afghan refugee crisis**

(Page 10)

- 3.2 Letter from the Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee on joint working between committees in the Sixth Senedd**

(Page 11)

- 3.3 Letter from the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee to the Chair of the Wales Slate Steering Group and Gwynedd Council on the award of UNESCO World Heritage Site status**

(Pages 12 – 13)

- 3.4 Letter from the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee to the Llywydd on the Committee timetable**

(Pages 14 – 15)

- 3.5 Letter from the FSB to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee on Committee ways of working**

(Pages 16 – 20)

- 3.6 Joint letter from National Museum Wales and Arts Council Wales to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee on Widening Engagement Reports**

(Pages 21 – 22)

3.7 Letter from the Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee on considering the Welsh language in the Committee's work
(Pages 23 – 24)

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting
(11.00)

Break

(11.00–11.15)

5 Technical briefing from the Welsh Government on International Relations
(11.15–12.15) (Pages 25 – 27)

Paula Walsh, Deputy Director International Relations

Ifona Deeley, Head of International Relations

Iain Quick, Head of Performance and Delivery of the Overseas Offices

Research brief

6 Private debrief
(12.15–12.30)



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

EVIDENCE PAPER TO THE CULTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, WELSH LANGUAGE, SPORT AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Introduction

The sectors in our portfolio areas have faced significant challenges both this year and last year as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. The impact of these challenges will continue into the future as we aim to support our sectors in recovery.

Whilst our focus has been on the health and economic response it cannot be denied that we have also been robust in ensuring the survival of our culture and heritage, our national institutions and the communities that protect and nurture them.

The Welsh Government's support measures, such as the Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF) and the Economic Resilience Fund (ERF), have clearly enabled our sectors to survive. However, further action is needed now, and over the course of the next few years, to help these vital sectors return to sustainable operation and contribute to Wales' recovery.

Spending to assist organisations and individuals recover from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on their livelihoods

The Welsh Government has made unprecedented levels of funding available to support Welsh businesses and organisations through the pandemic, including through the ERF and the non-domestic rates (NDR) linked grants and discretionary grants which were delivered by local authorities. To date we have provided more than £2.5bn in financial support, safeguarding more than 160,000 Welsh jobs. This is in addition to a full twelve-month rates holiday package for those in the hardest hit sectors. The measures we have taken are in addition to those provided by the UK Government, such as the Self Employment Income Support Scheme, Job Retention Scheme and Bounce Back Loans.

In addition, early in the pandemic eligible businesses could apply to the Covid-19 Wales Business Loan Scheme delivered by the Development Bank of Wales (DBW) which provided loans of between £5k and £250k at favourable interest rates. The DBW continues to have loan and equity funding available for Welsh businesses and an additional £270m has been allocated to the Flexible Investment Fund. This means more than £500m is available through the fund up to 2030 to support the long-term success and sustainable growth of our firms, in turn creating and protecting thousands of Welsh jobs.

Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF)

Across two phases of the CRF we have provided £93m of funding which has supported business, organisations and individuals in the cultural, sport, heritage and creative sectors. The delivery of the first phase of the Cultural Recovery Fund supported 646 businesses and 3,500 individuals with funding of £63m.

The Welsh Government allocated £30m for a second phase of funding to continue to support the sector. This was put in place to support the sector until the end of September 2021 and has continued to support businesses and organisations in the areas of creative industries, events, heritage and culture. As our *Programme for Government* makes clear, we are doing everything we can to support the visitor economy having offered £19m to more than 500 organisations.

The **Museums, Archives and Libraries** sectors received initial support of £486,000 from the Cultural Resilience Fund to respond to short-term pressures and recovery actions. The Federation of Museums and Galleries of Wales received £450,000 to administer two Covid-19 related grant schemes to support museums. £500,000 was provided towards digital library resources for public libraries to provide additional digital resources to the public to read and engage with whilst self-isolating. Over £1.5m was distributed from the CRF to support local authority museums, archives, libraries, cinemas and heritage attractions. The culture strand of CRF2 supported local museums and community libraries and based on the current position, 24 organisations will receive c. £550,000 to ensure that they are able to re-open and operate on a sustainable basis.

In December 2020 the cultural sponsored bodies were awarded an increase in funding to further support their work throughout the pandemic and enhance their digital offer; Amgueddfa Cymru received £0.300m revenue and £0.720m in capital to support the acceleration of digital activity during the pandemic. The National Library of Wales received £0.250m, Sport Wales £1m and the National Botanic Garden of Wales £0.240m

The Arts Council of Wales worked closely with Welsh Government on the **Arts** element of the CRF package, offering a total of £8.8m to 127 arts organisations. The CRF's primary goal of avoiding the permanent closure of arts organisations has been achieved. Nearly 1500 jobs were reported as being saved by CRF1 alone. Without CRF, the sector would have been severely and permanently damaged.

A range of financial support was provided to the **Sport Sector** in Wales. An allocation of £14m was awarded for the Sport and Leisure Recovery Fund for 2020-21 to help the sector meet the ongoing challenges and to help provide longer-term sustainability. Sport Wales used this funding to support the Sport Private Providers Fund (£4.28m) and Sport Freelancers Fund (£2.71m), and to bolster the Be Active Wales Fund.

An additional £17.7m funding package (Spectator Sports Survivor Fund) to help spectator sports severely impacted by the pandemic was announced by the Welsh

Government in January 2021. This ensured the short-to-medium term survival of sports which rely on income from spectators and had been adversely affected by the necessary restrictions during the pandemic. The funding provided immediate financial support to the sector to cover losses, to sustain them through the winter period and ensure they were ready for the beginning of next season.

Creative Wales set aside funding of more than £1.375m for a suite of funds to support the creative industries through the challenges of the pandemic. These covered immediate support for grassroots music organisations, a repackaging of planned development funding for the TV and digital sectors, and an additional emergency award to the Books Council of Wales, all to help our priority sectors survive while unable to operate as usual in light of the COVID-19 restrictions.

Alongside emergency interventions, Creative Wales continued to invest in key areas of work, to provide ongoing support and a pipeline of activity to sustain the sector and its supply chain. This included investment of more than £11m to 13 productions during the pandemic including to The Pact commissioned by BBC Cymru Wales and to Lucasfilm. This will provide over £110m in Welsh spend that directly supports the creative and wider economy to recover from the pandemic. Creative Wales also partnered with the BBC to bring the National Film and Television School to Wales and continued funding to the Books Council of Wales, which enabled the launch of ffolio.wales, the first-ever bilingual platform to focus on selling e-books from Wales to the wider world. In addition, the Momentum Music Fund is supporting the development of Welsh musicians.

As we continue our recovery from the pandemic and adapt to the new ways of working, Creative Wales will support the sector through a suite of new production and development funding schemes for its priority sectors. This will include support to increase skills and develop talent in Wales, and a dedicated fund to support an increase in coverage of news, on an arms-length basis. This will sit alongside pan-economy business support and external funding sources, such as the £50m Strength in Places project – ‘media.cymru’, which has been supported by Creative Wales.

We introduced the Freelancer Fund in Wales (the first of its kind in the UK), the second round of which has been delivered in partnership with local authorities. Through this latest round we will have supported 720 freelancers with funding of £1.8m. We built the Cultural Contract and Freelancer and Public Sector pledge into the Cultural Recovery Fund to encourage fair work, good employment practices and greater collaboration across the sector.

An assessment on how the pandemic has affected your long term policy goals for these sectors

Over the coming months it is clear it will be easier for some sectors to resume activity and operate in ways similar to pre-pandemic conditions. Other sectors will require ongoing support to navigate continued challenges. We will continue to evaluate the impact of the pandemic on all our published strategies and priorities, but overall it remains too early to say what the lasting impact will be over the long term.

Your priorities for these sectors for the duration of the Sixth Senedd, including any proposed legislation.

[The Programme for Government 2021-2026](#) was published on 16 June and it is our aim to deliver the culture/sport/ creative and heritage commitments within it, such as *inter alia*, supporting the redevelopment of Theatr Clwyd, establishing the Football Museum and the National Contemporary Art Gallery.

Culture & Sport

Among our priorities for Sport for the duration of this Senedd term are the promotion of equal access to sports, and support for young and talented athletes and grassroots clubs. We intend to invest in our world-class sports facilities, and in new facilities such as 4G pitches. We will also work across portfolios to support policy development and delivery of social prescribing to tackle isolation, and in reforming the school day and school year.

Priorities for the arts sector for the duration of this Senedd term will be to: promote equalities as the foundation of a clear commitment to reach more widely and deeply into all communities across Wales; to strengthen the capability and resilience of the sector, enabling creative talent to thrive; and, to enable the Arts Council of Wales to work more effectively, collaborating more imaginatively with like-minded partners across Wales.

Our support for the local cultural sectors will focus on building their resilience to continue their recovery from the impacts of the pandemic; equipping the sectors to meet the Programme for Government; and future-proofing the sectors, enabling them to take advantages of opportunities presented in a post-Covid world. The pandemic has brought the integral role local museums, archives and libraries play in supporting their communities and vulnerable people within them, into sharp focus. Over the Senedd term we will seek to develop and support our local sectors to work in new and relevant ways, building on their existing health and wellbeing impacts, work with diverse communities, contribute to formal and informal learning, and respond to the climate crisis. We will focus this support via providing training and development opportunities, grant funding, and by working in partnership with relevant community and sector support bodies.

Creative Industries, Media and Journalism

Our priority for the creative industries is to work with our partners to support the sector to emerge from the pandemic stronger than ever, and to build on the growth experienced prior to the crisis. The sector is well placed to support the post-COVID economic recovery, with a report by the Creative UK Group suggesting that, with the right investment, the sector could recover faster than the UK economy as a whole with the potential to create 300,000 new jobs across the UK by 2025. Our priority is to ensure Wales capitalises on these opportunities, as well as ensuring wider cultural, social and wellbeing benefits are maximised.

We will do this by prioritising actions that create the right environment for growth, with flexible funding pots that meet the needs of the sector, the right infrastructure

with quality studio space and thriving grassroots music venues and that deliver for the whole of Wales. We will also deliver our Programme for Government commitments around skills and innovation to support a diverse skills and talent base and investment in research and development.

Cadw/Historic Environment

As the First Minister announced in July, the first consolidation Bill as part of the programme to improve the accessibility of Welsh law, will bring together legislation relating to the historic environment. The Bill will create distinct, bilingual legislation for Wales, which is as accessible as possible.

Cadw will continue to deliver its wide-ranging statutory responsibilities, both in relation to the 130 historic properties in State Care and the wider protection and management framework for the historic environment of Wales. Over the next two years, we will be completing the ambitious capital investment projects at Caernarfon and Caerphilly Castle and at Tretower Court and will be developing new opportunities elsewhere for growing the visitor experience and our income, informed by the emerging audience development plan. We will also take forward the next steps identified in the Gaynor Legall audit – ‘The slave trade and the British Empire: an audit of commemoration’ and the previous Committee report ‘Set in Stone: a report on who gets remembered in public spaces’.

Document is Restricted

Jane Hutt MS

Minister for Social Justice

20 August 2021

Dear Jane,

We share your concern about the situation that is unfolding in Afghanistan. We agree that Wales must play its part in the humanitarian response particularly when it comes to supporting Afghan refugees.

We would welcome a statement from you at the earliest opportunity on the assistance being provided by the Welsh Government to Afghan refugees. We have a number of specific questions:

- How many Afghan refugees do you anticipate will be given sanctuary in Wales and is there a timeline for their resettlement?
- What assessment has the Welsh Government made of the adequacy of accommodation arrangements for refugees arriving in the UK, particularly in light of the tragic death of an Afghan child in Sheffield earlier this week?
- Has the Welsh Government secured the additional funding needed from the UK Government, as described [in your comments to the BBC](#)?
- What arrangements are being made for the UK's four-nations' summit, [confirmed by the Prime Minister](#) to Parliament on 18 August?
- How many Welsh local authorities have offered support and can you please provide details of the types of support offered by each local authority?
- How do plans to support Afghan refugees compare to the support offered to Syrian refugees in 2015?
- What is the Welsh Government's view on the eligibility criteria for priority support for Afghan refugees and do you support the UK Government position to give priority to women and girls?

We would welcome a response to our letter at your earliest convenience. The Equality and Social Justice Committee is also likely to explore these issues with you further in our planned ministerial scrutiny session on 20 September.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Rathbone MS

Chair of the Equality and Social Justice
Committee

Delyth Jewell MS

Chair of the Culture, Communications,
Welsh Language, Sport and International
Relations Committee



To the Chairs of:

the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee; the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee; the Finance Committee; the Health and Social Care Committee; the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee; the Petitions Committee; and the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee

10 August 2021

Dear Chair,

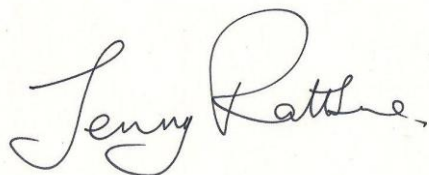
Joint working between committees in the Sixth Senedd

As the Senedd committee responsible for scrutinising all aspects of equality, social justice, and the Well-Being of Future Generations Act, our broad remit includes a number of important cross-cutting issues of mutual interest and potential joint working.

On behalf of the Equality and Social Justice Committee, I would like to invite you to consider opportunities for joint working as part of any strategic planning discussions you may be having in your Committee in the autumn term. If your Committee has any ideas for joint working you would like to discuss, please contact the clerking team.

I am writing in similar terms to other Chairs of Senedd Committees.

Yours sincerely,



Jenny Rathbone MS
Chair of the Equality and Social Justice Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.
We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

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

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Lord Dafydd Wigley, Chair of the Wales Slate Steering Group

Councillor Gareth Thomas, Cabinet Member for Economic Development
and Community, Gwynedd Council

Dyddiad | Date: 30 July 2021

Pwnc | Subject: Award of UNESCO World Heritage Site status

Dear Lord Wigley and Cllr Thomas,

As Chair of the Welsh Parliament's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee, I would like to congratulate the Llechi Cymru/Wales Slate team on their successful bid for UNESCO World Heritage Site Status for the North Wales Slate Landscape. This is a tremendous endorsement of the strength of the bid, the uniqueness of the site and the hard work of the bid team.

I'd be grateful if you would please pass on my congratulations to all those from Gwynedd Council, Cadw, Welsh Government, Snowdonia National Park Authority, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, Bangor University, the National Trust and the National Slate Museum for their hard work to achieve this success. This award will raise the profile of Wales' industrial heritage sites which provide an important source of income from tourism and also serve to educate and fascinate all who visit them. An area which has been so central to the history of Wales will now play an integral part in our nation's future, and in the profile we hold internationally.

The Committee will be undertaking a broad programme of work during the Sixth Senedd which will include looking at the challenges and opportunities facing the heritage sector. I am pleased that one of my first tasks as Chair is to celebrate this successful award, and I look forward to working with you in the future.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

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

Elin Jones MS
Llywydd

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Dyddiad | Date: 21 July 2021

Pwnc | Subject: **Committee timetable**

Dear Llywydd,

Thank you for your letter of 14 July detailing the Committee Timetable agreed by the Business Committee at its meeting on 13 July. It is useful to know the timing and frequency of Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee ('the Committee') meetings in order to plan our work programme.

The Committee discussed the timetable at its meeting on 14 July and Members are concerned that a single morning slot every fortnight will not allow us to cover the breadth and depth of the issues facing the organisations and individuals within our portfolio.

I understand that the timetable has been designed to accommodate the peaks and troughs of legislative scrutiny and allow for greater flexibility. However, it will be difficult for the Committee to take advantage of any additional meeting slots when our membership is shared with committees meeting in the 'off weeks'.

In order to maximise our opportunities for scrutiny of this portfolio, the Committee has had initial conversations about exploring alternative ways of working and gathering evidence. I would be grateful for further guidance on how this work can be accommodated. In particular, on the type of activity committees can undertake during the 'off weeks' and the mechanism for arranging to carry it out.

Committee Members have indicated their preference for the Business Committee to review the timetable earlier than your planned date of Easter 2022. Please can you pass our concerns to the Business Committee and consider our request for an earlier review of the timetable?

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delyth Jewell'.

Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 3.5



Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes
Experts in Business

25 August 2021

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee
Senedd,
Pierhead St,
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Dear Delyth Jewell MS,

RE: Priorities for the Committee

FSB Wales is the authoritative voice of businesses in Wales, with around 10,000 members. It campaigns for a better social, political, and economic environment in which to work and do business. With a strong grassroots structure, a Wales Policy Unit and dedicated Welsh staff to deal with Welsh institutions, media and politicians, FSB Wales makes its members' voices heard at the heart of the decision-making process.

FSB welcomes the opportunity to respond to the committee's call for views on its priorities. Committees serve a vital role in providing scrutiny of the government, in providing a key role in influencing policy development, and as a constructive engagement point for evidence and understanding between the legislature and civil society, including our role in representing small businesses.

With continuing issues arising from Covid, the possibility of further disruptions, and the legacy of the damage the pandemic has wrought alongside the impetus to build an economic recovery, the role of committees will be of even more importance this term.

As such, insofar as possible, it is important that the Senedd's capacity and abilities are used to the full in this process, and that the structure allows committees – and their Chairs - to be agile and able to respond quickly to events this Winter, as well as in providing scrutiny and policy development for the challenges ahead. It is in the spirit of supporting this democratic process and committees as the engine room of Welsh democracy that we respond to this consultation.

The committee covers areas of priority for FSB Wales and we look forward to working with you over the coming term.

Ways of Working

We note that the new Committees structure includes the following:

- The Sixth Senedd has for the moment opted for smaller membership in committees (4-6).
- This should allow members to build more specialism, but at the cost of more diverse voices in each committee (as was the case with larger committees).
- It is important to push for the advantages of building focused specialism is nurtured and maximised, but the diversity and small pool is mitigated (e.g., through cross-committee working).



Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes
Experts in Business

Potentially, this structure could allow for more agility which as there may well remain issues arising requiring quick reaction, policy response and scrutiny over the next period, could be extremely useful. This would require significant autonomy for committees to pursue their own path and ways of working.

However, the decision has also been taken to cut the number of committee meetings to be fortnightly rather than weekly.

- Smaller committees should allow MSs being able to populate across them better, but fewer meetings do not seem to add value in this respect.
- There are also dangers to scrutiny and policy development – the role of scrutiny (legislative and non-legislative) as we open up after Covid is important, with myriad issues across all policy areas important. Committees have an important role in this respect and halving the time for scrutiny in a stroke makes little sense. This is a particular issue for small business issues, as we are concerned that vital areas of economic recovery may not be properly addressed or scrutinised.
- There is a danger that the pressure will force committees to focus on necessary legislative scrutiny alone, while relegating wider scrutiny and policy inquiries to the margins (including on business issues and day to day issues around Covid, for example).
- Some Committees have wide and disparate subject areas, and there is a danger that whole policy areas will be relegated to the side-lines.
- As well as being the engine room of democratic scrutiny of Government, committees are a vital interface for contact and policy evidence from civil society – there is a danger that the pool of evidence is further narrowed, and a focus is on the narrower ‘usual suspects’ providing evidence posing a danger of group-think and less diverse views being taken in oral evidence.
- As noted above, committees will need to be agile in continuing to respond to Covid and the various issues raised by the pandemic will continue to impact for the Senedd term. These limits on their work may mitigate against that and undermine responsive policy development and scrutiny. As such, it makes sense to allow autonomy for Committees to pursue their own ways of working, including additional meeting and inquiries. As such, the two-week meetings should be seen as a baseline rather than a ceiling for activity and scrutiny.

Cross committee working will be vital to mitigate against small committees meaning a greater focus but a danger of silo working and loss of diverse offices bringing in a range of policy field lenses and understanding how they intersect. We therefore encourage cross committee inquiries as a minimum (and suggestions later in paper on subjects that span committees).

It is also possible to look at ways as a regular way of working and ensuring policy span through MSs from different committees could sit as non-voting ‘guests’ or bringing committee expertise and lens to particular meetings (e.g., climate change members sitting in on discussions on housing capital spending policy).



Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes
Experts in Business

This way of working will also be important in terms of scrutiny of the substance and operation of Welsh Government – through the ‘Super ministry’ of Climate Change as a central organising department looking to ensure cross departmental and holistic working, it is important that Senedd is able to mirror this and provide adequate scrutiny across policy areas accordingly.

Business concerns sit across many departments, and within intersecting policy subjects so it is important for FSB and small business concerns too.

Recommendations on ways of working

- That committees are allowed freedom (as decided unanimously by all their members) to look at the fortnightly meetings as a baseline and so can organise more meetings as suits them or for specific inquiries.
- We would urge a view to cross committee working on intersecting subject areas and inquiries – and that these can be on top of the fortnightly meetings.
- To mitigate against small committees being a small pool we would urge that committees can co-opt other MSs (including possibly spokespeople retain a right to attend and question) as non-voting members for individual sessions, and to be encouraged and incentivised to do so. These could also be as members of other committees to encourage cross sectoral views.
- It is vital, with continuing uncertainty on Covid over the Winter months (as well as ongoing issues and its legacy) that Committees are able to react with agility to raise issues, conduct inquiries and scrutinise reactively and quickly as needed. Committees and their Chairs should be able to do this with as much autonomy as possible over their schedules and ways of working (with necessary checks of unanimity in committee as appropriate).

FSB’s key policy and areas of work for the Committee

- *What is the current impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on your sector, and what further support is needed from the Welsh and UK Governments both to mitigate the impact of the pandemic and enable the post-pandemic recovery?*

FSB represent a wide variety of SMEs, and include many self-employed and freelancers in our membership. As the Welsh Government Covid-19 business support comes to an end, we will be looking at the data to see what sectors remain affected and whether and where targeted support may be advisable.

In terms of the Committee’s remit and subject areas, an important area to look at may be in terms of the performing arts and culture and whether there have been significant impacts on the skills available for a key sector of industry in Wales. This is an area often depends on skills of freelancers, and whether there are incentives and initiatives that may be needed to address any shortages identified for the future.



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Experts in Business

In terms of exports and international relations, this remains an area of concern which also aligns with Brexit. Similarly, there are skills shortages for key areas (such as hospitality) that are reducing the ability of businesses to return at full capacity, where it is currently difficult to assess the relative impacts of the pandemic and/or Brexit on skills available.

- *What issues should the committee prioritise in planning our work programme for the immediate and longer term?*

The subject areas the committee deals with are key areas that reinforce each other in how Wales presents itself to the world and leverages our substantial contributions in culture, heritage and advantages such as the Welsh language to project our brand to the world. The committee may wish to look at the best means to align the 'soft power' with accessing the Welsh diaspora, links (such as with media and universities) and economic benefits such as investment and tourism. The Committee should scrutinise the implementation and priorities set out in the Welsh Government's Export Action Plan.

FSB have called for a new arm's length body to address these interlinked areas and ensure an approach that brings these strands together.

- *How does Brexit and the new UK-EU relationship affect you or your organisation? What support have you received to respond to the changes? What further support, if any, is needed from Welsh and UK Governments?*

Brexit remains an issue of concern, with continued delays and issues around supply chains and exports, as well as skills shortages. FSB have called for export vouchers to help SMEs navigate new costs and for training and support for new export regulations as they develop.

We will be releasing a new FSB UK report on export related issues in the near future, and will share with the committee when available.

Subject areas for Joint working with other committees

Our suggestions above advocate a dynamic and agile role in co-working and cross committee working, utilising all the backbench capacity and capabilities as much as possible, and reducing possible silos in policy scrutiny and development. The following list gives some indications of possible areas of work, although this is not exhaustive list, and priorities will be necessarily shaped by wider issues of Welsh Government priorities and external factors such as Covid-19 and Brexit. Working iteratively with other committees will also shape framing of subject areas, and we believe this would generally be positive for inquiries and scrutiny.



Arbenigwyr mewn Busnes
Experts in Business

Subject area	Possible partner committee(s)
<i>Welsh Brand, Exports and internationalising SMEs</i>	Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee
<i>Freelancers in Culture and Arts and impact on skills in media industry</i>	Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee

FSB Wales would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with your officials, should you deem it useful.

Yours sincerely,

Ben Cottam
Head of Wales
FSB

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Parc Cathays, Caerdydd, CF10 3NP
Ffôn: 0300 111 2 333
Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg.
National Museum Wales
Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3NP,
Tel: 0300 111 2 333
We welcome correspondence in Welsh.

Agenda Item 3.6

national
museum
wales
amgueddfa
cymru

ysbrydoli pobl
newid bywydau
inspiring people
changing lives

Delyth Jewell MS
Plaid Cymru

27 August 2021

Dear Delyth

You will be aware of the recent media and social media attention regarding the publication of three **Widening Engagement Reports** on 19 August.

In 2020, Amgueddfa Cymru and the Arts Council of Wales set out to undertake a series of in-depth conversations with community groups to widen engagement with people we consistently fail to engage in our work. Three organisations undertook three very different studies on our behalf:

1. Re:cognition who focused on an area of semi-rural poverty
2. Richie Turner Associates, who created a team focussing on deaf and disabled people
3. Welsh Arts Anti-Racist Union who focused on cultural and ethnic diversity.

Last week, we published these three reports on our websites as agreed with the consultants who undertook the work: https://museum.wales/aims/vision-commitments-and-values/widening-engagement-research/?_ga=2.202444753.1301646903.1629367706-616543260.1599049154

Our initial response to these reports can be found here:
<https://museum.wales/news/1239/Culture-belongs-to-all-of-us/>

We welcome these three reports but are yet to accept or reject any of the recommendations within them. We wish to provide assurance that we will not take forward any recommendations which would lead to a breach of our statutory responsibilities as part of the Welsh Language Standards.

The reports were commissioned to help drive meaningful change. For our organisations, this work is key as part of a wider process of change, working in collaboration with communities who have found us difficult to reach, to provide better equity in what we do and how we work.

Llywydd / President Roger Lewis
Is-Llywydd / Vice President Dr Carol Bell PhD, DLitt
Trysorydd / Treasurer Hywel John FCA
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol / Director General David Anderson OBE
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The work supports both organisations' Strategic Equality Plan, which outlines our determination to advance equality, with a clear commitment to reach more widely and deeply into all communities across Wales. It will also support the Welsh Government's Race Equality Action Plan.

Both organisations will publish a joint Action Plan with a timeframe for taking forward the recommendations from the reports in the Autumn. In the meantime, please get in touch if you would like to discuss this work with us.

Yours sincerely



Roger Lewis
Llywydd
Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales



Phil George
Chair
Arts Council Wales

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

19 July 2021

Dear Ms Jewell

Considering the Welsh language in the Committee's work

I am writing to you at the beginning of the sixth Senedd term to urge you to ensure that the Committee gives full consideration to the Welsh language in all aspects of its work not only when it considers specific matters relating to the Welsh language.

In the Cymraeg 2050 Welsh Language Strategy the Welsh Government announced the vision of reaching a million Welsh speakers and increasing the percentage who speak Welsh daily to 20%. The strategy includes milestones to measure the success of its achievement, with the first milestone in 2021 and the next in 2026. As the Commissioner noted in his letter to the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee on 10 February 2021 we believe that it will be necessary to take a serious approach to holding the Government to account for the extent to which the Strategy is being achieved and the milestones reached. The Commissioner also referred to the importance of mainstreaming the Welsh language into wider legislation and policy. We are concerned that there is insufficient scrutiny of the impact of legislation and policy on the Welsh language in general. Indeed, Eluned Morgan, the previous Minister for Mental Health, Wellbeing and the Welsh Language, stated in a scrutiny session:

... I would suggest that actually, rather than just holding me to account when it comes to the budget, [...] that actually you ask the other Ministers, who've got huge amounts of

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money, what they're doing within their budgets in relation to the Welsh language.”
(Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee meeting, 25 February 2021)

I should emphasise that the Welsh language should not be seen as a cultural issue alone as it is a living language in all communities in Wales and a main language in many of them. Those communities face a number of social and economic challenges that in turn challenge the viability of the Welsh language in those communities.

The Commissioner published a manifesto document¹ for the 2021 election stating that a wide range of factors affecting the Welsh language need to be considered and outlined a number of policy interventions that should be introduced in different areas. The challenge for the new Government will be to act radically to ensure that we are on the right track to meet the 2050 targets and I believe that the committee has a vital role to play in the effort to ensure that it does so. One of the areas where there is real need for the Government to take action is to introduce Welsh language standards. These are the duties placed on public organisations to use and consider the language, ensuring quality and consistency in Welsh language services. To enable the Commissioner to impose standards, the Government must prepare standards and introduce regulations. The last set of regulations came into effect in June 2018. We have introduced a programme for the Government to consider for taking this work forward as soon as possible. It would be appropriate for the Committee also to ensure that this programme is introduced as soon as possible.

We will publish a number of significant reports over the summer, including our Annual Report, our 5-year Report on the position of the Welsh language and our annual Assurance Report on the performance of public bodies against Welsh language standards. I am sure that there will be an opportunity to discuss these reports with the Committee during the autumn term.

I hope that you will bear these comments in mind as you consider the committee's future work. I wish you every success in that work and look forward to contributing to it.

Yours sincerely



Gwenith Price
Deputy Welsh Language Commissioner

¹ [Manifesto \(positif.wales\)](https://positif.wales)

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