

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

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3, Senedd

Meeting date: 2 April 2025

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Manon George

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddCulture@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCulture@senedd.wales)

## Hybrid

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### Pre-meeting registration

09:15 – 09:30

### Public session

09:30

#### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions, and declarations of interest

09:30

#### 3 Papers to note

10:45

##### 3.1 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

(Page 1)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee informing of the seventh meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee – 27 February 2025

##### 3.2 Existence of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC)

(Pages 2 – 3)



Attached Documents:

Letter from Michael Hayes raising concerns about the repair of St Davids Hall  
– 27 February 2025

### **3.3 International agreements**

(Pages 4 – 7)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee,  
in relation to the UK–Ukraine One Hundred Year Partnership Agreement – 17  
March 2025

Letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee,  
in relation to the agreement between the UK and Spain on the Free Pursuit of  
Gainful Occupation by Dependants of Members of Diplomatic Missions and  
Consular Offices – 17 March 2025

### **3.4 Welsh Government international relations**

(Pages 8 – 11)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the First Minister requesting information on UK–Africa relations – 4  
March 2025

Letter from the First Minister providing information on UK–Africa relations –  
20 March 2025

### **3.5 Forward work programme**

(Pages 12 – 16)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Future Generations Commissioner for Wales calling for a  
Culture Bill for Wales – 21 March 2025

Letter to the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership on the leaked  
Culture Division Report – 4 March 2025

Letter from the Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership on the  
leaked Culture Division Report – 21 March 2025

- 4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(vii) and (ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting**

10:45

- 5 UK–EU implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement: Consideration of evidence**

10:45 – 11:05

**Break**

11:05 – 11:15

- 6 Legislative Consent Memorandum No. 2 on the Data (Use and Access) Bill: Consideration of Legal Advice Note and draft report**

11:15 – 11:20

(Pages 17 – 41)

Attached Documents:

Legal Advice Note

Draft LCM report

- 7 Forward work programme: Consideration of the Committee's work programme for the Autumn Term 2025**

11:20 – 11:40

(Pages 42 – 53)

Attached Documents:

Forward work programme – Summer 2025 – Spring 2026

Research briefing – International Agreements

- 8 Welsh Government's International Strategy: Technical briefing on the International Strategy Delivery Plan**

11:40 – 12:20

(Pages 54 – 58)

Andrew Gwatkin – Director – International Relations and Trade

David Warren – Head of International Relations

Attached Documents:

Welsh Government International strategy delivery plan

**9 Welsh Government's International Strategy: Consideration of evidence**

12:20 – 12:30

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros  
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate  
Change and Rural Affairs

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0094/25

Mike Hedges MS  
Chair  
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

26 February 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to notify you of the seventh meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC), which will take place on 27 February 2025.

The Standing Committee will be co-chaired by the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of Northern Ireland. I will represent the Welsh Government at this virtual meeting. I anticipate the meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the use of technology in public service reform as well as other key issues of mutual interest.

I have copied this letter to the Chairs of the Finance Committee, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee and the Health and Social Care Committee.

I will provide an update after the meeting.

Yours sincerely,



**Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS**

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd  
a Materion Gwledig  
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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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.

# Agenda Item 3.2

Welsh Parliament  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

  
27/02/2025

Dear Ms Jewell

I am very concerned about the apparent lack of progress over the repair of St David's Hall.

As you know, the hall was closed in September 2023 and in February 2024 Cardiff Council signed an agreement with Academy Music Group (AMG) for a 45-year lease to take on the running of St David's Hall.

In July 2024 the council's cabinet member for culture, sports and parks, Cllr Jennifer Burke, said "the listing of the building has significantly prolonged the process of its repair. AMG are currently finalising costs with contractors with a view to submitting an application towards the end of the summer. It's anticipated that the work will take about 18 months to complete, once all the related plannings are secured".

At the beginning of February 2025 Wales on Line reported that delays to work on Cardiff's St David's Hall had left Jennifer Burke "beyond frustrated". She was sure "that planning applications are expected imminently and that... part of the issue has been that costs have gone up because of the extent of the RAAC".

So it would appear that very little progress has been made in the year since the agreement was made with AMG.

Disturbingly, in October 2024 Wales on Line reported that "a new 15,000-seater indoor arena for Cardiff had been confirmed with the signing of a development and funding agreement. Contracts have been exchanged between Cardiff Council, global venue and entertainment operator Live Nation Entertainment and its partner OVG (Oak View Group), which will operate the arena, and Robertson Property as development partner.

The £250m project, which will be at the heart of the transformation of Atlantic Wharf in Cardiff with a 30-acre mixed-use development, had been hit by inflation over the last few years, which added around £100m to the cost. However, Live Nation, which will operate the arena under a 45-year lease with the council, has agreed to make a £100m financial contribution towards the project. Subject to financial close, work will start 2025 with the arena expected to open in the second half of 2027."

Live Nation owns 51% of AMG and runs the 5000 -7500 capacity Utilita Arena which is about 350 metres from St David's Hall.

So Live Nation will control 3 large concert venues in Cardiff which appears too many.

The Wales on Line report of February 2025 suggests some of the council are being kept in the dark about progress. The council also seem to have little control over the project.

I am beginning to doubt that St David's Hall will reopen at all.

I have enjoyed many experiences in the 40 years the Hall has been open, from Beethoven to the Capital City Jazz Orchestra, and consider it a first class venue. Not only are the acoustics and sight lines excellent but it is simply a pleasure to sit in the hall and admire the surroundings.

I am afraid that the delays outlined above, together with the continuing lack of maintenance, will lead to the repair work being abandoned on cost grounds. To do so on a purpose built concert hall only 40 years old would be vandalism of the highest order.

I would be grateful for your comments.

Yours faithfully



Michael Hayes

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

17 March 2025

Dear Delyth,

### UK-Ukraine One Hundred Year Partnership Agreement

As you are aware, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

During our meeting on 17 February 2025, we considered the announcement made in the UK Parliament on 20 January 2025 by the Secretary of State for Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Affairs, David Lammy MP, confirming that the UK Government signed a 100-year partnership with Ukraine. The partnership covers nine "pillars" of cooperation. Specific activities span various areas, including military collaboration, energy cooperation, and 100 school partnerships to foster cultural exchanges.

Although the agreement relates to the reserved matter of international relations, we agreed to draw the agreement to the attention of your Committee, in light of its international relations remit and previous exchanges with the Welsh Government on cultural support provided to Ukrainian arrivals in Wales.

Our latest report, which covers this agreement, was laid on 5 March 2025 and is available [here](#).

Yours sincerely,

Mike Hedges

Mike Hedges

Chair

Delyth Jewell MS

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

17 March 2025

Dear Delyth,

**UK-Spain: Free Pursuit of Gainful Occupation by Dependants of Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Offices**

As you are aware, the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee is responsible for monitoring the implementation of non-trade international agreements in the Sixth Senedd.

During our meeting on 17 February 2025, we considered the agreement between the UK and Spain on the Free Pursuit of Gainful Occupation by Dependants of Members of Diplomatic Missions and Consular Offices. The purpose of this agreement is to allow dependent family members (spouses, partners or eligible children) of staff employed in UK diplomatic missions and consular posts to undertake gainful employment in Spain (and vice versa).

Although the agreement relates to international relations and employment policy within the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and the civil service, which are reserved matters, we agreed to draw the agreement to the attention of your Committee, in light of its international relations remit and ongoing scrutiny of matters arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU.

Our latest report, which covers this agreement, was laid on 5 March 2025 and is available [here](#).



Yours sincerely,

Mike Hedges

Mike Hedges

Chair

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

Eluned Morgan MS  
First Minister  
Welsh Government

4 March 2025

**UK-Africa relations**

Dear Eluned,

As part of the Senedd's scrutiny of international agreements, we considered amendments to the Agreement Establishing the African Development Fund at our meeting on 19 February 2025. As a result of our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's International Strategy and its action plans (including Wales and Africa), we agreed to write to you requesting the following information:

- Whether and how the Welsh Government works with the UK Government to deliver its activity in African nations.
- What involvement, if any, the Welsh Government has in the development and delivery of the UK Government's UK-Africa relations.
- To what extent the Welsh and UK governments priorities on Africa relations align.
- In which intergovernmental forum UK-Africa relations are discussed.
- How the governments approach relations with African states whose values may not align to those of the UK.
- What support, if any, has the UK Government provided to the Welsh Government to deliver its Wales and Africa action plan.

The requested information will assist the Committee in our upcoming inquiry on the Welsh Government's International Strategy.

We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



**Delyth Jewell MS**  
**Committee Chair**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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

20 March 2025

Dear Delyth

I am writing in response to your letter of 4 March, which requested information about Wales' relationship with African nations.

The answers to each of your questions have been set out in the annex to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan**

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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.

**Back Page 10**  
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.

## **Annex A - Response**

1. We have the support of the British High Commission (BHC) in the three African countries where we work (Namibia, Lesotho and Uganda). We rely on the BHC to provide us with safety and political briefings, and work with the BHC to support staff and participants who are taking part in any of our programmes in-country.
2. The UK Government is currently consulting with Welsh Government on its 'New Africa Approach' as part of delivering UK-Africa relations.
3. The scale and aims of Welsh Government activity in Africa is very different to that undertaken by the UK Government. Our priorities do not conflict with, or duplicate, those of the UK.
4. UK-African relations are discussed in the Inter-Ministerial Steering Committee.
5. Intergovernmental relations are not devolved, and the UK Government has specialists (for example in human rights) deployed in the countries where the Welsh Government is undertaking projects. The Welsh Government promotes Welsh values of fair play and equality through the work that we undertake. The most high-profile example of this work takes place in Uganda where, following the passing of the Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023, the Welsh Government has organised and supported events discussing how to ensure that LGBTQI rights are protected, insofar as is possible, in the work that groups and individuals do in partnership with Ugandans.
6. The Wales and Africa Action Plan has been discussed with UK Government officials and assistance has been provided by the British High Commissions in the countries where we work. There has been regular engagement with BHC officials in Uganda in support of the Mbale Tree Programme.

# Agenda Item 3.5



Comisiynydd  
**Cenedlaethau'r  
Dyfodol**  
Cymru

**Future  
Generations**  
Commissioner  
for Wales

Delyth Jewell MS

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

Senedd Cymru

Cardiff Bay

CF99 1SN

By email

21<sup>st</sup> of March 2025

Dear Delyth,

**Re: Culture Bill for Wales**

Thank you again for meeting with my team recently and for the opportunity to discuss my call for a Culture Bill for Wales that would make culture a statutory requirement.

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you formally on the call I have made for a Culture Bill, recognising the essential role culture plays in shaping our national identity, supporting social, environmental and economic well-being.

I believe there is now an urgent need for Wales to embed culture as a statutory expectation for public bodies, to ensure its long-term protection, development, and accessibility for all. A statutory requirement would help guarantee that every person in Wales can participate in, enjoy, and see themselves reflected in our rich and diverse cultural life.

My support for a Culture Bill is drawn from the analysis undertaken as part of my statutory reviews of public bodies, as well as through extensive conversations with representatives from across the culture and arts sectors, including freelancers, trade unions, national cultural institutions, and community organisations.

As your recent report highlighted, Wales ranks among the lowest in Europe for spending per person on cultural services. While I welcome the additional investment for culture in the

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Comisiynydd Cenedlaethau'r Dyfodol Cymru

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Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

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recent Welsh Government budget, the current approach is not sustainable if we are to realise culture's full potential to contribute to the well-being of current and future generations. I believe a statutory footing is necessary to protect and sustain culture for the long term.

In my forthcoming Future Generations Report, I will be encouraging all political parties to consider making a statutory commitment to culture within their election manifestos.

That said, I want to acknowledge and appreciate the work already underway by Welsh Government officials, including the development of National Priorities for Culture, which I fully support. However, these priorities must be backed by the necessary implementation mechanisms, including adequate resources and funding, if they are to have the intended impact.

There are exciting opportunities ahead for culture in Wales, and I recently discussed this with Jack Sargeant MS, Minister for Skills, Culture and Social Partnership. I would also like to encourage the Committee to consider exploring the case for a Culture Bill as part of its ongoing work, and I would be very pleased to return to the Committee to share further evidence and reflections that support this proposal.

Thank you again for your time and commitment to this important agenda. I look forward to continuing our conversations.

Yours sincerely,



**Derek Walker**

Future Generations Commissioner for Wales

Jack Sargeant MS  
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership  
Welsh Government

4 March 2025

Dear Jack,

At our meeting on 19 February 2025, the Committee considered the Culture Division Review, excerpts of which have recently been published by the journalist, Will Hayward.

The Committee would like to request:

- A copy of the Culture Division Review produced by Resolution at Work Ltd.
- Details of actions that the Welsh Government has taken in response to the issues raised in this review.
- The Minister's assessment of the extent to which the department today resembles the description in the review.
- Whether any issues identified in the review are still outstanding (and, if so, if you could please provide a timescale for addressing them.)

The Committee has raised a number of concerns about the delivery of the Welsh Government's Programme for Government commitments (for example the National Contemporary Art Gallery, the Culture Strategy and the devolution of broadcasting) in reports and correspondence. Against this backdrop, the depiction of the Division in excerpts from the leaked report – that there is “no sense of longer-term strategic planning” and “described as in chaos and survival mode” – is one we find alarming. We are also worried about the effect which such an environment would have on staff.

I look forward to receiving your response by 1 April 2025.

Yours sincerely,

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

Delyth Jewell MS  
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Jack Sargeant AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol  
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations  
Committee  
[SeneddCulture@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCulture@senedd.wales)

21 March 2025

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 4 March regarding the review of the Welsh Government's Culture Division.

A response has been issued by the Permanent Secretary on this matter.

The Welsh Government may undertake neutral assessments with external experts to build an objective view of staffing issues identified. To create a safe space for staff to share their experiences, their contributions are strictly confidential. The Welsh Government will not publish confidential information on staffing matters.

Whilst the Welsh Government does not comment on leaks, feedback from staff is taken incredibly seriously and all staff are actively encouraged to raise concerns and issues anonymously and in confidence. All responses to internal surveys are reviewed and action is taken as needed to fully resolve concerns raised.

This year's People Survey results from across the Civil Service were published recently and can be found on the Gov.uk website: [Civil Service People Survey: 2024 results - GOV.UK](#)

The 2024 results show improvements for the Welsh Government's Culture Division, especially in areas such as learning and development, which the Division had agreed to prioritise in 2023 and 2024.

Yours sincerely,

**Jack Sargeant AS/MS**  
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership  
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol

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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.

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# Agenda Item 7

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

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# Agenda Item 8

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

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