

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2, Senedd

Meeting date: 5 June 2025

Meeting time: 10.30

For further information contact:

Manon George

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Hybrid

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

10:40

2 Cymraeg for all? inquiry – Evidence session with Canolfan Bedwyr – Panel 2

10:40–11:40

(Pages 1 – 19)

Dr Llion Jones, Director of Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University

Dr Lowri Hughes, Head of Policy and Development, Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University

Gruffudd Prys, Head of Language Technologies, Canolfan Bedwyr, Bangor University

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Break

11:40–11:50

3 Cymraeg for all? inquiry– Evidence session with Welsh language technology representatives – Panel 3

11:50–12:50



Carl Morris – Welsh-language Technologist

Break

12:50–13:30

4 Cymraeg for all? inquiry – Evidence session with academics –

Panel 4

13:30–14:30

Dr Neil Mac Parthalain – Aberystwyth University

Dr Daniel Cunliffe – University of South Wales

Dr Cynog Prys – Bangor University

5 Papers to note

14:30

5.1 Public Service Broadcasting

(Pages 20 – 21)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Broadcast 2040+ campaign: Raising concerns about the long-term future of terrestrial TV in Wales – 17 May 2025

5.2 Welsh Government international relations

(Page 22)

Attached Documents:

Ministerial International Engagement April 2025 – 20 May 2025

5.3 Welsh Government's international strategy

(Pages 23 – 27)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Visit Wales: Providing written evidence for the Committee's inquiry into the Welsh Government's International Strategy – 21 May 2025

5.4 Forward work programme

(Pages 28 – 33)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Petitions Committee: Advising of a petition on putting rugby in the curriculum for Wales from primary schools through to secondary schools – 21 May 2025

Letter from Crys16, the Scarlets Supporters Trust: Raising concerns about the WRU's withdrawal of the Professional Rugby Agreement offer – 28 May 2025

5.5 Data (Use and Access) Bill

(Pages 34 – 36)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, and the Minister for the Future Digital Economy and Online Safety: Raising concerns about the potential loss of the UK's EU data adequacy decisions – 11 March 2025

Letter from the Minister for Data Protection and Telecoms: Responding to concerns about the potential loss of the UK's EU data adequacy decisions – 21 May 2025

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting

14:30

7 Cymraeg for all? inquiry – Consideration of the evidence received

14:30–15:00

Document is Restricted

Agenda Item 5.1



Delyth Jewell MS
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport,
and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff, CF99 1SN
By Email: Delyth.Jewell@senedd.wales

RE: Protect the long-term future of terrestrial TV in Wales

Dear Ms Jewell,

We are writing to raise an urgent issue concerning the future of the UK's free-to-air, universal terrestrial TV services - a vital lifeline for many people across Wales, especially in rural areas and among the most vulnerable members of society.

Terrestrial TV is a lifeline service for millions of people across the UK, providing universal, reliable access to trusted news, information and entertainment. It reaches over 98.5% of households via an aerial, with no need for high-speed fixed broadband connections or expensive monthly streaming subscriptions. Terrestrial TV is a universal guarantee of social connection, its long-term future is therefore critical for many of the most vulnerable in our society: older people, those living with a disability, households struggling with the cost of living, and those living in rural communities.

It is especially important to people in Wales, with its challenging geographies and greater rurality. Recent data from Ofcom showed that 24% of Welsh households struggled with the affordability of their communication services, with 28% of homes in Wales relying on terrestrial TV as their only means of watching TV.

Despite this, there is a real risk that this vital service could be lost within a decade. The long-term future of terrestrial TV is only guaranteed until the early 2030s, when the licenses which support it expire. If the government does not act, terrestrial TV will be switched off.

Since November 2024, the UK Government has been convening a [stakeholder forum](#) to consider the long-term future of terrestrial TV. This forum is bringing together the TV sector, infrastructure industry, and audience groups to inform the government's review on the future of TV distribution.

As a reserved policy, decisions made in Whitehall will have a lasting impact in Wales. In a recent answer to a [parliamentary question](#), the UK Media Minister Stephanie Peacock MP, who is leading the review, said: 'the Government will engage with the devolved governments to understand the unique characteristics of broadcasting in each nation well in advance of any decision being taken.'

We believe now is the right moment to act to ensure the Welsh voice is heard. Given the Senedd's strong interest in this issue, we would be keen to engage with you and share more of the campaign's insights on the value of terrestrial TV in Wales and the broader question of the future of the technology. Without direct and early engagement from devolved governments, there is a risk that the specific needs of Wales will not be fully reflected in the outcome of this review.

The Broadcast 2040+ Campaign is backed by a diverse alliance of charities, broadcasters, industry bodies and consumer champions, including Silver Voices, the Rural Services Network, the Digital Poverty Alliance, Age UK, the Campaign to End Loneliness, and many others. We are committed to safeguarding the long-term future of terrestrial TV, and would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to discuss how we can work together to protect access to broadcasting for all communities in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

The Broadcast 2040+ campaign



List of Campaign partners

1. Age Concern Liverpool and Sefton
2. Age Concern North Norfolk
3. Age UK
4. Age UK North Tyneside
5. Age UK North Yorkshire Coast and Moors
6. Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin
7. Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington
8. Age UK Mid Mersey
9. Age UK Norfolk
10. Arqiva
11. BEIRG (British Entertainment Industry Radio Group)
12. Better Media
13. Boom Radio UK
14. British Broadcasting Challenge
15. CAI (Confederation of Aerial Industries)
16. Children's Media Foundation
17. Churches 4 Positive Change
18. Citizens Advice Cornwall
19. Communicorp UK
20. County Durham Community Foundation
21. Cumbria Community Foundation
22. Digital Poverty Alliance
23. Fix Radio
24. Focus4Hope
25. Frontier Smart Technologies
26. LTVN (Local TV Network)
27. National Federation of the Blind UK
28. PBS America
29. Rural Services Network
30. Silver Voices
31. Sunrise Radio
32. Talking Pictures TV
33. Campaign to End Loneliness
34. Together TV
35. UCB (United Christian Broadcasting)
36. VLV (Voice of Listener and Viewer)
37. World DAB



Agenda Item 5.2

MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

APRIL 2025

INWARD VISITS	
02 Apr	Visit to Wales by EU Ambassador to UK and other Heads of Mission The First Minister met with the EU Ambassador to discuss the economic relationship between Wales and the EU and the strengthening of wider relations. The EU Ambassador was accompanied by the Ambassadors to the UK from Latvia, Belgium, Bulgaria and Luxembourg.
OUTWARD VISITS	
02 Apr	Deputy First Minister visit to Latvia The Deputy First Minister travelled to Riga to visit an exemplar Deposit Return Scheme operator in Latvia and for meetings with Latvian government officials.
06 Apr	Counsel General and Minister for Delivery visit to Malta The Counsel General visited Malta to speak at the Commonwealth Law Conference and learn from leading experts in the field.
08 Apr	First Minister visit to Copenhagen The First Minister travelled to Copenhagen to speak at the Wind Europe Conference and to meet with company CEOs to promote the Welsh renewables sector, green energy and green growth.
23 Apr	Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Planning visit to Japan The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Planning travelled to Japan for a 5 day programme of events. This visit formed part of the Year of Wales and Japan with a programme designed to grow and enhance economic, cultural and tourism links. The visit ended with a Wales Day at the Osaka Expo 2025, where the Cabinet Secretary hosted a reception at the UK Pavilion. Written Statement: Ministerial Overseas Visit - Japan

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

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

21 May 2025

Dear Chair,

Please find enclosed a written submission of evidence in response to your inquiry on the Welsh Government's International Strategy.

Yours sincerely,

Jason Thomas.

Director
Tourism, Marketing, Events and Creative Wales

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

Raising Wales' profile on the international stage

Our established and successful brand for Wales as a place to invest, work, live, visit and study – the Cymru Wales brand – is a key vehicle in delivering the international strategy.

Cultural diplomacy

We work with our partners – at home and abroad – to amplify our strategy to raise our profile overseas. This Team Wales approach brings together cultural, broadcast, sporting associations, community, tourism and diplomacy partners to project Wales as a globally responsible nation.

For example, the 2022 Football World Cup presented a first-in-a-generation opportunity to raise our profile at a global sporting event of this scale. The Welsh Government-funded World Cup activity comprised:

- The Partner Support Fund (PSF) which funded 19 culture, sport and education organisations to deliver activities to celebrate Wales in the World Cup. A summary of each of the PSF projects is included in Annex B of the full report.
- An enhanced marketing campaign, which focused on core target international markets across the Cymru Wales brand, business and tourism as well as a strong in-Wales campaign presence. The campaign's target markets included Wales, USA, parts of Europe, UK, and in Qatar.
- Lleisiau Cymru World Cup Ambassadors – a new initiative consisting of a group of four individuals who worked to raise Wales' profile internationally and to help create long-lasting positive perceptions and building strong relationships with key partners.
- International events organised by the Welsh Government's overseas offices, particularly in Qatar and the USA.

The campaign achieved global recognition winning the World Media Awards Grand Prix and Tourism Winner 2023, whilst over 30 external partners co-delivered the project with activity in the US, Middle East and Wales. Over 300,000 people from across Wales took part in community activities with the activity as a whole reaching over five million people globally. Welsh Government commissioned an independent evaluation report of the project which published at the time

<https://www.gov.wales/sites/default/files/statistics-and-research/2023-07/evaluation-of-welsh-government-funded-world-cup-activities.pdf>.

The Tîm Cymru approach is also used to promote Wales globally on St David's Day through our network of international offices and their work with diaspora. It is also used for our now well-established thematic years for example Wales in France (2023), Wales in India (2024) and Wales and Japan (2025). Wales and Japan marketing activities include content co-creation and activations working with Wales Arts International, Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, and the Urdd most recently at a Wales Day at UK Pavillion at Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan. Upcoming

Tîm Cymru activity to raise Wales's profile includes health, inward investment and a UK Tourism Day at Expo 2025 and a programme of work to celebrate Cymru's participation in the women's Euros in Switzerland in July 2025. These programmes are delivered through close working between a range of partners on a day to day basis lead by Welsh Government.

The Euros offers Wales a significant platform to promote itself on the international stage, sparking interest among viewers across Europe and beyond and encouraging them to learn more about our nation. Cymru Wales Brand activity will enhance and amplify FAW and Tîm Cymru work in Switzerland to showcase our values, our culture and creativity. In addition, a targeted multi-media campaign will promote our nation to audiences from international markets, with a particular focus on our group opponents, France and Netherlands.

Growing the economy by increasing exports and attracting inward investment

Our marketing programme supports international work to increase exports and attract inward investment. Through our integrated campaign, "Wales. Invested", we take a highly targeted approach to promoting Wales for inward investment. The campaign promotes Wales as a destination for inward investment focussed on six priority sectors: Cyber Security, Compound Semiconductors, Fintech, High Value Manufacturing (inc. Future Mobility), Life Sciences and Clean Energy (inc. Marine Energy / Hydrogen).

Presence at key sector events across the world alongside businesses is a key component of this work, such as Medica and the Paris Airshow where we support Welsh businesses to showcase their products and services in overseas markets.

Our digital channels, such as www.tradeandinvest.wales, provide a 24/7 365 shop window for those thinking about potential investment. Using a range of case study content and highlighting regional strengths across Wales, our digital presence can be seen as the first step in finding out what Wales can offer from an investment perspective. For those interested in finding out more about specific sectors, they can enquire and get more detail from our inward investment team which has a suite of proposition materials to use when speaking with potential investors.

For example, a digital campaign was delivered in Japan ahead of SEMICON Japan (October to December 2024), a global semiconductor manufacturing supply chain event, utilising LinkedIn and other digital activity focused on reaching target investors. A further example was the on the ground and digital activity to promote Wales as an investment location for wind energy centred around the Japan Wind Expo event in February 2025. From an export perspective, we have delivered campaigns to promote Welsh business delegations taking part in Welsh Government trade missions in key markets; as well as delivering the "Export Exemplar" campaign to showcase successful exporting business in Wales, as a means to encourage and inspire other businesses in Wales to consider exporting.

The Wales Investment Summit will be held in December 2025, at the Wales International Convention Centre, to showcase Wales as business investment destination to global industry leaders and potential investors. In support of this,

Marketing will be working with the Event and Invest teams to deliver this signature event under Cymru Wales brand.

Attracting visitors to Wales

In the tourism strategy [Welcome to Wales: priorities for the visitor economy 2020 to 2025 | GOV.WALES](#) the international challenge is clearly identified. The tourism strategy launched shortly after the Welsh Government International Strategy and it identified growth of inbound tourism as core to successful delivery. Growing and attracting high-spend visitors to Wales – in a way that is sensitive to environmental issues – is fundamental to the tourism sector and to the short and longer-term future of the wider economy of Wales.

Promotion focuses on our outstanding landscapes, culture and adventure offer and includes a broad range of activity such as targeted international campaigns, PR and media engagement, VisitBritain collaboration, media buying with key titles, work with Online Travel Agents (OTAs) and our pro-active programme targeting tour operators and agents (Travel Trade).

The US remains a priority market for Wales from a tourism perspective. To maximise on the unprecedented global attention on Wales due to the “Welcome to Wrexham” phenomenon a partnership with one of the most popular Online Travel Agents (OTA) has been in place. Our partnership with Wrexham AFC has also enabled collaboration to generate leads for database growth through fan zone activity. Most recently, Visit Wales is sponsoring season four of “Welcome to Wrexham” on Disney+ where our flagship campaign for the Year of Croeso *feel the hwyl* will feature. To capitalise on the enthusiasm of US-based fans there is also a targeted US campaign positioning Wrexham and the surrounding area as a must visit destination for travellers showing an intent to visit Wales.

International press trips are core to our delivery, both solus and with VisitBritain, and cover several themes using landscape, adventure and culture. Last year’s (2024) programme delivered a range of coverage in tier one media from Forbes in the US to Elle in Italy. The media itineraries are themed and often also highlight Welsh Government policy as a foundation for delivery, for example, the LGBTQ+ visit and Sustainable Wales themes, both of which generated coverage from media wider than solely travel.

Travel trade (organised tours for groups and individuals) accounts for a significant number of visitors to Wales. Our activity builds relationships with key tour operators and intermediaries to ensure Wales features in their portfolios. Attractions and accommodation providers attend trade events like ITB Berlin and Destination Britain North America with Visit Wales to sell directly to travel trade representatives. TXGB, a digital booking platform initiated by VisitBritain and facilitated by Visit Wales, helps Welsh businesses extend their reach by managing inventory on multiple channels.

VisitBritain’s work to promote Wales internationally remains key. Visit Wales has worked with VisitBritain on the creation of a new strategic partnership framework to deliver further regional spread benefits for Wales. One of the first projects delivered under this new framework is VisitBritain’s principal, multi-million pound activity in

2025 the *Starring Great Britain* campaign. The two-year campaign centres on the UK's star film and TV locations including the Creative Wales supported major HBO series *House of the Dragon* filmed in North Wales.

Major Events

Event Wales' programme of supported events is a vital part of the visitor economy. By supporting events across Wales, the Welsh Government helps to drive positive economic impact, showcases our world-class venues, spotlights our cities, towns and communities and highlights our wonderful landscapes. They attract tens of thousands of visitors into Wales each year. The AIG Women's Open held in Porthcawl in July is a major golf tournament being hosted in Wales. The tournament will be televised globally. It was announced in March that Wales has been successful as part of a three nation bid to host the Tour de France in 2027 which will also be a major opportunity to promote Wales on the global stage.

Agenda Item 5.4

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Buffy Williams MS, Chair, Children, Young People and Education Committee

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

21 May 2025

Dear Buffy and Delyth,

Petition P-06-1501 Put rugby in the curriculum for Wales from primary schools through to secondary Schools

The Petitions Committee met on 12 May and considered the above petition, submitted by Alex Linney.

Following the response from the Cabinet Secretary for Education, it was agreed that there was little more the Committee could do, other than to write to you as Chairs of the relevant subject Committees to highlight the petition. It was agreed we would then thank the petitioner and close the petition.

The full details of the Committee's consideration of the petition, including the correspondence and the actions agreed by the Committee can be found here: [P-06-1501 Put rugby in the curriculum for Wales from primary schools through to secondary Schools](#)

I would be grateful if you could send any response by e-mail to the clerking team at petitions@senedd.wales.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Thomas MS
Chair

Senedd Cymru

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Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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Tuesday, 28 May 2025

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

Dear Delyth,

We write on behalf of our members, as representatives of Crys16, the Scarlets Supporters Trust. The Trust is a voluntary organisation established in 2006 to act as a voice for Scarlets supporters.

The Trust has 944 members and represents them through engagement with the club, the WRU and other key stakeholders. We are independent of the club; however, we do have observer status on the board of the Scarlets, attending board meetings as non-voting participants.

We wish to express our serious concern at the recent actions of the Welsh Rugby Union, which have imperilled the future of the club, with the consequent impact on its staff, supporters and the wider economy more generally.

The withdrawal of the Professional Rugby Agreement offer to the Scarlets and the reported intention to pursue a future with 3 professional teams in Wales, on unequal funding, was unexpected and unnecessary.

We're certain that you're aware of the huge sporting and cultural impact the Scarlets has had nationally and globally, and it remains one of the preeminent rugby brands anywhere in the world.

Despite hailing from a small town, the impact of the club has been disproportionate to its population and, indeed, the club has provided a regional as well as national impact culturally and economically, long before the advent of regional professional rugby, being a positive influence for Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and beyond.

The club has a positive impact on the local community through the work of the Scarlets Community Foundation, which delivers an array of programmes for children and the wider community throughout the year and interacts with tens of thousands of people annually, through their programmes. The Scarlets are an international ambassador for the Welsh language through their branding and heritage. It's a vital national resource that should be protected at all costs.



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The Trust welcomes the recent cross-party statement from local MPs, who met with senior Welsh Rugby Union officials on 23 May 2025. We hope this letter will assist them with these efforts and encourage the Senedd to also pursue this matter further.

Welsh Rugby Union's actions

Whilst we do not intend to reiterate the developments that have led to this situation, we do wish to raise some specific concerns about the Welsh Rugby Union's recent conduct in relation to these negotiations.

The Trust has endeavoured to engage with the Union throughout the negotiation process for the Professional Rugby Agreement (PRA), however this engagement has been piecemeal and inconsistent. When Abi Tierney started her role as CEO in January 2024, she promised these meetings would be held on a quarterly basis. However, there has only been one meeting between June 2024 and the current day.

Indeed, at a meeting of the Joint Supporters Group, an organisation representing the four professional clubs' supporters, on 30 April 2025, the WRU's Chief Executive, Abi Tierney, reiterated her commitment to maintaining four equally funded clubs in Wales.

The use of the media throughout these negotiations has been of concern to the Trust and the decision to release this news through the media late on the evening of 17 May, whilst many of the club's players and employees were known to be in South Africa, is highly questionable. This was following a 48-hour ultimatum issued on 8 May to sign the agreement, despite assurances still being sought by the club and with most of the players and staff in South Africa.

The actions of the Union must also be considered in the context of recent significant criticism relating to its conduct of negotiations relating to professional contracts in the women's game, which led to criticism from the Senedd's Sport Committee¹. In scrutiny before this Committee, the WRU committed to address these issues in the future, however the Trust would suggest that it is repeating past failings and not learning lessons on how to pursue negotiations.

The prospect that the Welsh Rugby Union could proceed with a solution that excludes the Scarlets or the Ospreys from its future is nonsensical to the Trust, given that the two are demonstrably the most successful clubs of the professional era, based on a wide range of criteria.

The administration of Cardiff Rugby has created a climate of financial uncertainty at a critical point in negotiating the new PRA and now the Union has chosen to exclude the two West Walian clubs. We do not consider this to be a reasonable course of action, given the financial

¹ Senedd, [Sport Committee: Allegations surrounding the Welsh Rugby Union](#), 28 November 2024



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difficulties facing Cardiff, as well as the lack of success of Dragons Rugby, despite 6 years of WRU ownership between 2017 and 2023.

Economic impact

As of January 2024, Carmarthenshire County Council has estimated that the club's local economic impact includes the direct employment of 161 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff, plus 246 casual match or events staff². It's estimated that the club purchases from approximately 87 suppliers, many of whom are based in the local area.

Indeed, Carmarthenshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Resources described the club as "a huge part of the sporting, social and economic fabric of Carmarthenshire" and its presence in the community and as a tenant of Parc y Scarlets acts as "a catalyst for a considerable level of economic and social activity"³.

Indeed, projections from an independent report as far back as 2012 indicated that the presence of the club played a "pivotal role as an economic stimulus for the region", with a "direct contribution of £16.1m per annum into the local economy, which is set to grow to £32m a year by 2016"⁴. It's likely that this figure is at the very least comparable if not greater, now.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the club was one of only a handful of professional rugby clubs in the United Kingdom that recorded a profit in 2019-20⁵. With a fair funding deal, it has been demonstrated that the club can continue to be a resilient business, whilst maintaining competitiveness on the field.

All the evidence available indicates that the loss of the club from the local economy would be hugely damaging not only to the town of Llanelli, but to Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion and beyond. The impact on suppliers and employees based throughout the region would be catastrophic. The loss of the club should also be considered as part of the wider economic context of the region, which has included the loss of Oakwood theme park, another major attraction for West Wales.

Next steps

The Trust would like to engage with you to help lobby the Welsh Rugby Union to alter its current course of action and protect a vital community and economic resource.

² Carmarthenshire County Council, [Cabinet Meeting](#), 29 July 2024

³ Carmarthenshire County Council, [Council approves restructure of Scarlets loan](#), 11 September 2024

⁴ Welsh Rugby Union, [Scarlets key to economic success in West Wales](#), 23 May 2012

⁵ BBC Sport, [Scarlets expect big losses after £35k profit in last financial year](#), 19 June 2021



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Following the cross-party statement from local MPs, who are pursuing this matter with the Welsh Rugby Union, we would encourage MSs to also join this effort. We believe that your Committee could play a vital role in scrutinising the Welsh Rugby Union's actions in this matter, given your previous interest and work in this area.

If the Committee is minded to pursue this work, the Trust is happy to assist by providing further information, as well as the perspective of affected supporters.

We look forward to working with you on this matter and anticipate your reply with interest.

Regards,
Crys16

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

The Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP
Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology

The Baroness Jones of Whitchurch
House of Lords

11 March 2025

Data (Use and Access) Bill

Dear Secretary of State and Lady Jones of Whitchurch,

The Senedd's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee is currently scrutinising the Welsh Government's Legislative Consent Memorandum for the Data (Use and Access) Bill.

We believe that data-sharing between the UK and EU is a crucial element of post-Brexit UK-EU relations. We therefore share the Welsh Government's concerns about the potential loss of the UK's EU adequacy decisions and the potential for the Trade and Cooperation Agreement to be undermined in future should the Bill lead to UK-EU divergence.

The Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning, Rebecca Evans MS, wrote to us on 5 February 2025 saying that the "the UK Government has provided assurances that it sees no threat to the adequacy agreement by the Bill." The Cabinet Secretary notes in her letter, however, that the Welsh Government has "no evidence to prove or disprove this". We understand that Welsh Ministers have requested a copy of the UK Government's risk assessment on this matter but have not received it.

We are disappointed and concerned that this assessment has not been shared with the Welsh Government, and we believe that this should be rectified as a matter of urgency. We therefore ask that you share your risk assessment with the Welsh Government at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell

Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Sir Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State
Department for Science, Innovation
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100 Parliament Street
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21 May 2025

Delyth Jewell MS
seneddculture@senedd.wales

Our Ref: MC2025-00007468-NR

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your correspondence of 11 March to the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, the Rt Hon Peter Kyle MP and the Minister for the Future Digital Economy and Online Safety, Baroness Maggie Jones, regarding the importance of maintaining the EU's adequacy decisions for the UK. I am responding as Minister for Data Protection and Telecoms.

Firstly, I would like to reassure you that I, personally, and the UK Government recognise the value of efficient and safe flows of personal data between the EU and the UK. For this reason, the Data Use and Access Bill has been designed with EU adequacy in mind. Our legislative changes are underpinned by a commitment to maintain high data protection standards. We have incorporated robust safeguards and changed proposals that did not serve our priorities and were of concern to the EU.

The Secretary of State met the EU's Justice Commissioner Michael McGrath, on 29 January 2025 to discuss the importance of EU-UK data flows. Officials from this department and the Home Office are continuing to share technical material with the European Commission, as required, to ensure the EU has all the information required to complete their renewal process.

The EU's recent proposal for a six-month extension to the UK's two adequacy decisions provides welcome clarity. It is important that organisations that deliver services for our citizens have certainty and confidence regarding these flows of personal data.

While the EU's review is underway, it is important the UK Government respects the European Commission's unilateral process. I acknowledge your request for an EU adequacy risk assessment, and to provide reassurance I have written to Ministers in Devolved Governments on the importance we place on retaining the two adequacy decisions from the EU.

I hope this letter will reassure the Welsh Government on the actions we're taking to secure renewal of the EU's decisions.

Yours sincerely,

Sir Chris Bryant MP
Minister of State