

## Y Cyfarfod Llawn

### Plenary

24/09/2024

*Mae hon yn fersiwn ddrafft o'r Cofnod sy'n cynnwys yr iaith a lefarwyd a'r cyfieithiad ar y pryd.*

*This is a draft version of the Record that includes the floor language and the simultaneous interpretation.*

### 3. Datganiad gan y Prif Weinidog: Cysylltiadau rhynglywodraethol

### 3. Statement by the First Minister: Inter-governmental relations

**Y Llywydd / The Llywydd** 15:00:52

129 Datganiad gan y Prif Weinidog nesaf ar gysylltiadau rhynglywodraethol. Y Prif Weinidog felly i wneud ei datganiad—Eluned Morgan.

The next item is a statement by the First Minister on inter-governmental relations. I call on the Prif Weinidog to make the statement—Eluned Morgan.

**Eluned Morgan** 15:01:02

*First Minister of Wales*

130 Diolch yn fawr. The Welsh Government is determined to deliver on our priorities. We will do this by working with public sector partners, those in Wales and beyond, in particular the new UK Labour Government. As First Minister, I commit to bringing energy and respect to this important work, and continue to stand up for Wales's interests within a thriving and vibrant union. Two Governments working together for the benefit of Wales is in the best interests of people right across the country.

- 131 We have not always seen respect in our inter-governmental landscapes over the last decade and a half. Of the 25 years of devolution, half of that time has been spent working alongside a Government that doesn't respect the devolution settlement, and didn't have Wales's best interests at heart. We will shortly be laying and publishing the 2023-2024 inter-governmental relations annual report. I'm not going to dwell on that further, but I invite Members to read it and reflect for themselves on how inter-governmental relationships suffered during the previous UK Government's time in power.
- 132 The formation of the new UK Government has provided a major opportunity to reset relations and begin a new era of partnership between the Welsh and UK Governments. We are determined to work together in the interests of delivering for the citizens of Wales. This doesn't mean that we will always choose the same path as colleagues working in London, but when we do disagree, we'll do that with respect and we'll always ensure that those decisions work in the best interests of the people of Wales.
- 133 That shared commitment to reset relations has already been very evident over the summer. I have had conversations with the Prime Minister, Chancellor and the Secretary of State for Wales to facilitate a collective response to critical immediate issues—on Tata, on public sector pay, on the issues that matter most to the people of Wales. Those conversations have opened a space to work in partnership to support and respect each other's priorities.
- 134 We've seen positive engagement on the UK Government's legislative programme, and we look forward to working with them on Bills in that programme that can benefit Wales. There are clearly areas where we in Wales can share our own experience and expertise, and we stand ready to do so. I also look forward to working together with the new UK Government to strengthen the Sewel convention through a new memorandum of understanding outlining how the nations will work together for the common good.

*Daeth y Dirprwy Lywydd (David Rees) i'r Gadair.*

*The Deputy Presiding Officer (David Rees) took the Chair.*

**Eluned Morgan** 15:03:55

*First Minister of Wales*

- 135 Mae ein hymgysylltiad gyda'r Canghellor a'r Prif Ysgrifennydd i'r Trysorlys wedi adlewyrchu ailosodiad positif o berthnasoedd ac adfywiad ysbryd cydweithredol. Pan wnaeth cyn Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid a minnau gyfarfod â'r Canghellor ym mis Awst, fe wnaethom ni gytuno ar yr angen i osod sylfaen am berthynas agos a chynhyrchiol i gyflawni canlyniadau clir ar gyfer ein blaenoriaethau cyffredin yng Nghymru. Fe wnes i dynnu sylw at y materion sy'n bwysig i Gymru, gan gynnwys ein hymgysylltiad yn adolygiad gwariant y Deyrnas Unedig, cyllid teg i Gymru a hyblygrwydd cyllidebol.

136 Rhaid i ni gofio bod record economaidd Llywodraeth flaenorol y Deyrnas Unedig dros y 14 mlynedd diwethaf wedi gadael heriau sylweddol. Bydd mynd i'r afael â'r effeithiau ar unigolion, cymunedau a chyllid cyhoeddus yn cymryd ymdrech ac amser sylweddol. Er hynny, dwi'n hyderus y bydd, yn Llywodraeth newydd y Deyrnas Unedig, gyda ni bartner ymroddedig a fydd yn gweitho gyda ni ar y weledigaeth rŷn ni'n ei rhannu ar gyfer dyfodol Cymru. Wrth gwrs, nid yw perthnasoedd rhynglywodraethol ar draws yr ynysoedd hyn yn ddwyochrog yn unig. Mae Llywodraeth Cymru wedi elwa o berthnasoedd cryf gyda'r Llywodraethau datganoledig eraill, a hefyd gyda Chyngor Prydain ac Iwerddon. Byddwn ni'n parhau i adeiladu ar y perthnasoedd cadarnhaol hyn.

Our engagement with the Chancellor and Chief Secretary to the Treasury has very much reflected a positive resetting of relationships and reinvigoration of collaborative spirit. When the then Cabinet Secretary for Finance and I met with the Chancellor in August, we agreed on the need to set the foundations for a close and productive relationship to achieve tangible outcomes for our shared priorities in Wales. I was able to highlight the issues that are important to Wales, including our engagement in the UK spending review, fair funding for Wales and budgetary flexibilities.

We must remember that the previous UK Government's economic record over the past 14 years has left significant challenges. Addressing the impacts on individuals, communities and public finances will require considerable time and effort. However, I am confident that, in the new UK Government, we have a committed partner who will work with us on a shared vision for Wales's future. Of course, inter-governmental relationships across these islands are not simply bilateral. The Welsh Government has always benefited from strong relationships with the other devolved Governments, and with the British-Irish Council. We will continue to build on these positive relationships.

137 The Welsh Government continues to believe that the review of inter-governmental relations, agreed in January 2022, can provide the machinery needed to bring the Governments of the UK together, to discuss the right things at the right time. But there are more connections to be made and strengthened, and that is why we welcome the Prime Minister's proposal for a new council of nations and regions—a way to bring together the Governments and the mayors of combined authorities across the UK. I look forward to participating in the first meeting, which will be held in the coming weeks.

138 In strengthening our intergovernmental relations and the devolution settlement, we'll seek to progress and build on the conclusions and recommendations of the Independent Commission on the Constitutional Future of Wales. The strengthening of inter-governmental relations since the UK elections is something to be really strongly welcomed. The Welsh Government will seek to capitalise on the opportunity to work in partnership with the UK Government for the benefit of the people of Wales.