



Y Gwir Anrhydeddus Elin Jones AS

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Right Honourable Elin Jones MS

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Carolyn Thomas MS

Chair of the Petitions Committee

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay

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27 September 2024

Dear Carolyn,

Ref: Letter from the Committee about Petition P-06-1433

Thank you for your letter of 17 July. I am writing to provide clarity on the current position, as requested.

At the Commission meeting on 15 July, Commissioners considered the report of a review which had been undertaken at the Commission's request by one of the Commission's Independent Advisors. The purpose of this piece of work was to aid the Senedd Commission to develop a broadcasting protocol/policy which would provide clarity on the channels to be available on the Senedd's internal television system into the future.

The report set out that the policy should be:

- **Transparent:** the policy should be published on the intranet alongside a list of the available channels.
- **Closely linked to the Commission's view of what best serves the professional needs of Members, their staff and Senedd staff.** Channels and radio stations which offer news and current affairs are most likely to fall into this category. It is hard to see a case for the Senedd to offer a range of entertainment channels and music radio stations on its internal network.
- **Politically impartial:** it is essential that the Senedd Commission is, and is seen as, politically impartial and that decisions on which channels to include on the network are not thought to be taken on the basis of Members' political views. Adherence to an external regulatory standard of impartiality would provide assurance in this regard.

- Simple: a simple rule is easy to explain and easy to follow. A more complex rule risks tying the Commission up in lengthy consideration of which TV channels to include or remove, benefitting no-one.
- Cost effective: the Senedd Commission should minimise public expenditure on the inclusion of channels on its internal network and the operation of its policy in this regard.

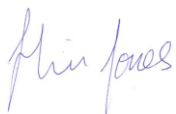
Commissioners received the information reported and accepted the policy approach recommended by the Independent Advisor.

The policy position adopted is that the primary purpose of the internal TV system in the Senedd is to provide broadcast feeds for the Siambur and Committee rooms. In addition, a number of television channels and radio stations are available. The television channels are those considered by the Commission to meet the professional needs of Members, their staff and Senedd staff and which are required by statute to provide comprehensive and authoritative coverage of news and current affairs in, and in the different parts of, the United Kingdom and from around the world. In addition, a number of radio stations which principally provide authoritative news coverage are also included on the internal network.

This will mean that the Senedd Commission's Triple Play system will include only those channels which have public service obligations: BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 and S4C. Commissioners agreed one addition to this provision, which was to include Sky News as an additional channel to ensure a plurality of news programmes.

A wide range of other television channels and radio systems can be accessed online using the Senedd IT network.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Elin Jones', is positioned below the closing text.

The Rt. Hon. Elin Jones MS

Llywydd

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