



Department
for Culture,
Media & Sport

Sir Chris Bryant MP

Minister of State
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
1st Floor
100 Parliament Street
London SW1A 2BQ

Delyth Jewell MS

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

Senedd Cymru

6 January 2025

Dear Delyth,

I welcome the opportunity to respond to the Welsh Parliament's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee report '*Culture shock: Culture and the new relationship with the European Union*'.

The UK Government is committed to accelerating growth to benefit every corner of the UK and breaking down barriers to opportunity across all sectors, including culture and the creative industries. Working in partnership with the Welsh Government and the other Devolved Governments is essential to deliver on these priorities. We recognise the value that Welsh organisations, such as the Welsh National Opera and BBC National Orchestra of Wales, bring to the diverse and rich cultural offering in Wales, across the UK and internationally.

The UK Government is committed to working with the European Commission and other European friends to strengthen ties, tackle barriers to trade, and build strong and wider cooperation in a range of areas. Following their meeting in Brussels on 2 October 2024, the President of the European Commission and the Prime Minister have agreed to put the UK-EU relationship on a more solid, stable footing. We will now work with the European Union to identify areas to strengthen cooperation for mutual benefit. Culture and the creative industries are vital sectors for both the UK and the EU, and we look forward to strong engagement and collaboration across these sectors to further our shared interests.

There will be issues which are difficult to resolve, as well as areas on which we will stand firm; we've been clear that there will be no return to freedom of movement, no return to the customs union and no return to the single market. However, we are committed to finding constructive ways to work together and deliver for the British

people. With this in mind, we will hold regular UK-EU Summits at leader level to review progress, starting in the first half of 2025. We recognise that delivering new agreements will take time, but we are ambitious, have clear priorities and want to move forward at pace. This approach underpins the UK Government's response to the Committee's recommendation. The UK Government is not responding to those recommendations for other bodies from the Committee's report.

Recommendation 5: We urge the UK and EU to prioritise new arrangements for creative workers in the upcoming implementation review of the Trade and Cooperation Agreement with a view to progressing the Parliamentary Partnership Assembly's recommendation on touring artists.

I fully recognise the scale of the challenges facing professionals, including Welsh artists, wishing to tour in Europe. I am particularly proud of the international reputation of our arts and creative industries, including bands such as the Manic Street Preachers and performing arts groups like the National Dance Company Wales. In order to maintain our global standing, artists need to be able to perform and promote themselves around the world. This Government is exploring how best to help touring artists, and improve arrangements for music, performing arts and culture touring across the European continent, without seeing a return to free movement.

We are already working collaboratively with the creative industries and culture sectors to address the key issues for our brilliant musicians, artists and their support staff, as detailed in your report. We are also engaging with the EU and EU Member States, with a view to improving arrangements for touring across the European continent. Our priority remains ensuring that UK artists, including Welsh talent, can continue to thrive on the global stage.

We have been clear that we want to look forward and make things easier for UK and EU businesses, including those operating in the creative and cultural sectors. However, the timeline and scope of this is something that we will explore together with our EU partners, to do more in our shared interest.

I am copying this response to the Paymaster General and Minister for the Cabinet Office, the Rt Hon Nick Thomas-Symonds MP.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Bryant', with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Sir Chris Bryant MP
Minister for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism