

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

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