



Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair  
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,  
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Welsh Parliament  
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2 April 2026

Dear Delyth

Thank you for the Committee's work over the last five years scrutinising the Welsh Government's work with the Irish Government to develop a meaningful, constructive and mutually beneficial relationship between our two countries. I was pleased to receive a copy of your report *Wales-Ireland Relations: A Portrait of Brilliant Possibility* which provides some helpful recommendations for future governments to consider when they set out their approach to build on the solid foundation that has already been laid.

I welcome the time taken by the Committee to explore Wales's relationship with Ireland in depth, and that you have been able to see for yourselves the excellent work that has been achieved during the delivery of the 2021-2025 Shared Statement. I am particularly pleased that the Welsh Government's team in Dublin has been able to support your visits enabling the Committee to experience the results of our work first-hand.

My response to this report is set out below but, as the report contains recommendations and guidance for future governments, I would like to reiterate that the responses reflect the views of the current Welsh Government and cannot be binding.

This government is committed to maintaining the relationship with Ireland, as demonstrated by our work to develop a new Shared Statement with the Irish Government that takes us towards 2030. Wales's continued presence at the British-Irish Council further demonstrates that commitment. Of course, March is the month in which both countries celebrate our national days, and March 2026 was no different with events held on both sides of the Celtic Sea.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The EU is one of Wales's most important partners, in terms of the economy and cultural links. The Welsh Government agrees with the Committee's report and shares its concerns about the detrimental impact that leaving the EU is having on touring artists and Wales's ability to participate in EU programmes such as Creative Europe.

Our ability to build a successful relationship with Ireland is intrinsically linked to the support provided by our stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge the hard work undertaken by our stakeholders, including Strategic Partners such as the Urdd and Wales Art International, in delivering the Shared Statement over the last five years. Their contribution and dedication to delivering for Wales has been an important part of the Shared Statement's success and I hope that will continue towards 2030.

I welcome the Committee's call for sufficient funding to deliver the Wales-Ireland relationship. Of course, we can always do more with more resources and this relationship is no different. As always, there will be competing priorities for a future Welsh Government budget, but I hope that our relationship with Ireland will be able to continue its positive trajectory and move forward in the new Senedd term. Officials on both sides of the Celtic Sea, and our stakeholders, have proved they are adept at doing more with less; however, more resource will always be welcomed.

My thanks to you and the Committee members for your work and support on the Wales-Ireland relationship over the last Senedd term.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Eluned Morgan'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name 'Eluned' being larger and more prominent than the last name 'Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan**