

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3, Senedd

Meeting date: 10 July 2025

Meeting time: 09.05

For further information contact:

Manon George

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Private pre-meeting

09:05–09:20

Public

09:20

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

09:20

2 Motion under Standing Order 17.42(ix) to resolve to exclude the public from items 3, 6 and 9 of this meeting

09:20

Private

09:20

3 Private briefing on the new Ireland–Wales Shared Statement 2030

09:20–09:50

Iain Quick – Welsh Government Representative to Ireland, Welsh Government



Public

09:50

4 Cymraeg for all? inquiry – Evidence session with experts on language behaviour change – Panel 9

09:50–10:50

(Pages 1 – 22)

Dr Osian Elias – Director, Iaith

Dr Kathryn Jones – Executive Director, Iaith

Dr Elin Royles – Reader, Aberystwyth University

Attached Documents:

Briefing

Break

10:50–11:00

5 Cymraeg for all? inquiry – Evidence session with experts on language behaviour change – Panel 10

11:00–12:00

Dr Rhian Hodges – Bangor University

Professor Bernadette O'Rourke – University of Glasgow

Private

12:00–12:15

6 Cymraeg for all? inquiry – Consideration of the evidence received

12:00–12:15

Break

12:15–13:00

Public

13:00

7 Cymraeg for all? inquiry – Evidence session with international experts – Panel 11

13:00–14:15

Professor Nikolay Slavkov – University of Ottawa

Dr Ruth Kircher – European Centre for Minority Issues

Dr Robert James Talbot – Office of the Commissioner of Official Languages of Canada

Professor Michael Hornsby – Adam Mickiewicz University

8 Papers to note

14:15

8.1 The Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2025–26

(Pages 23 – 26)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter from the Chair of the Finance Committee to the Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language: Providing a summary of the Senedd Committee consultation responses on maximising budget scrutiny – 16 June 2025

8.2 Welsh Government's International Strategy

(Pages 27 – 34)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Constitution, External Affairs and Culture, the Scottish Government: Providing written evidence for the Committee's inquiry into the Welsh Government's International Strategy – 16 June 2025

8.3 Welsh Government International Relations

(Pages 35 – 43)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Welsh Government: Requesting further information about the

UK-Ukraine 100-year agreement – 29 May 2025

Letter from the First Minister: Providing further information about the UK-Ukraine 100-year agreement – 17 June 2025

Ministerial inward/outward visits for May 2025 – 20 June 2025

Letter to the Prime Minister: Raising concerns about the impact of the Immigration White Paper on Wales – 23 May 2025

Letter from the Minister for Migration and Citizenship: Responding to the Committee's letter raising concerns about the impact of the Immigration White Paper on Wales – 17 June 2025

8.4 Legislative Consent Memoranda on the Data (Use and Access) Bill

(Pages 44 – 45)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy & Planning: Responding to the Committee's report on the first two Legislative Consent Memoranda on the Data (Use and Access) Bill – 17 June 2025

8.5 UK-EU implementation review of the Trade and Co-operation Agreement

(Pages 46 – 47)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning: Providing written evidence on the Welsh Government's engagement with EU institutions – 18 June 2025

8.6 Inter-institutional Relations Agreement

(Pages 48 – 49)

Attached Documents:

Copy letter from the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs to the Chair of the Legislation and Justice Committee: Providing information about the date of the next Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee – 24 June 2025

Copy letter from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: Notifying

the date of the next meeting of the Tourism Inter-Ministerial group – 25 June 2025

8.7 General scrutiny of Sport Wales

(Page 50)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chief Executive of Sport Wales: Confirming that final award funding allocations to national governing bodies have been made publicly available – 26 June 2025

Private

14:15

9 Cymraeg for all? inquiry – Consideration of the evidence received

14:15–14:30

Document is Restricted

Mark Drakeford MS,
Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Welsh Language

16 June 2025

Dear Mark,

Consultation with Senedd Committees on documentation supporting Draft Budget scrutiny

As you are aware, the Committee concluded in our [report](#) on the scrutiny of the Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025-26 that it would consult Senedd committees involved in budget scrutiny ahead of the Welsh Spending Review and the 2026-27 budget round to explore ways to maximise budgetary scrutiny in the Senedd.

This year, we wrote to all Senedd Committees on [1 April 2025](#) and received responses from the following Committees:

- [Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee \(ETRA\)](#)
- [Local Government and Housing Committee \(LGH\)](#)
- [Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee \(CCWLSIR\)](#)
- [Children and Young People and Education Committee \(CYPE\)](#)
- [Health and Social Care Committee \(HSC\)](#)

These responses build on themes identified during similar consultation exercises held in 2023 and 2024 and are summarised under the following headings:

Timing

ETRA, CCWLSIR and LGH all expressed disappointment that the timing of the Draft Budget 2025-26 fell over the Christmas period and asked for this to be avoided in future budget rounds. LGH stated that:

"Over the past three years, the draft budget scrutiny process has felt rushed, with our report being laid the day before the Plenary debate. This raises questions in relation to the extent in which Senedd Members, the Welsh Government and stakeholders can meaningfully consider committee reports before the debate."

CCWLSIR added that the Welsh Government should be taking steps to ensure the earliest possible publication of its draft budget and supporting documentation to facilitate meaningful scrutiny.

This reflects our concerns about the time available to scrutinise the 2025-26 Draft Budget, encapsulated in our [recommendation](#) that the Cabinet Secretary works with the Committee to identify ways in which scrutiny opportunities can be enhanced, as well as continuing the approach of holding pre-budget evidence sessions early in the autumn term in years when the publication of the Draft Budget is delayed.

We welcome your [response](#) which stated that you are keen to ensure that we make the best use of the time available for the 2026-27 budget round, and we hope you can take the additional views expressed above into account when considering the forthcoming timetable.

Quality and usefulness of evidence

The quality of evidence produced by the Welsh Government in support of the Draft Budget has been a common concern amongst Senedd Committees to date.

ETRA was "broadly content" with the evidence received from the Welsh Government in relation to the Draft Budget 2025-26, particularly the breakdown of actions by BEL activity tables. CYPE also stated that they had "no concerns with the timeliness, quality or usefulness of the 2025-26 Draft Budget documentation".

However, committees did focus on ways in which transparency in the information provided by the Welsh Government could be enhanced.

ETRA stated that they would like to see further information provided on the engagement undertaken by the Welsh Government with stakeholders and the public prior to the Draft Budget's publication to allow the Committee to better understand the basis for the budgetary decisions taken.

LGH also stated that there is room for more clarity and transparency in the documentation provided, stating that:

"We would like to see more detail under each BEL, for example the homelessness prevention BEL needs to account for the Housing Support Grant separately, alongside the other element of the BEL.

LGH added that it would also be helpful if the Welsh Government could set out in written evidence how the provisional local government settlement considers the requirement for the sector to comply with certain statutory duties and/or Programme for Government priorities, such as the Welsh language; inequalities and the nature and climate emergency.

In its response, CCWLSIR identified several policy areas where the evidence provided was limited and was not sufficient to inform effective scrutiny. This included its work in scrutinising budgets relating to the Welsh Language, international relations and the financial performance of Cadw.

CYPE called for the Welsh Government to provide multi-year projections of both its revenue and capital budgets following the spending review in June 2025. Alongside this, they stated that the Welsh Government should clearly set out its funding priorities and the mechanisms by which it will use the funding at its disposal to achieve its policy objectives.

HSC also raised specific points relating to the information it would like to see published alongside the Draft Budget, and reiterated recommendations made in its report on the Draft Budget 2025-26 calling on the Welsh Government to:

- publish the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Service's Health Board Allocation letter along with the NHS Planning Framework, which guide health boards' Integrated Medium-Term Plans, either ahead of, or alongside, publication of the other Welsh Government draft budget documentation;
- provide an annual update about the work of the Value and Sustainability Board, the efficiencies that have been implemented, and the opportunities it has identified to support financial improvement; and
- provide a comprehensive breakdown of preventative spending across all NHS bodies in Wales, along with detailed evidence of how the budget allocated to prevention initiatives is being used.

We believe these suggestions are reasonable and believe that addressing the concerns above for 2026-27 will lead to increased transparency, more effective scrutiny and better outcomes.

I welcome your ongoing engagement on these issues and look forward to hearing more about the Welsh Government's approach to the 2026-27 budget during your statement on Plenary on 1 July. I also hope to explore these issues further as part of the Committee's annual budget priorities debate in Plenary prior to the summer recess, where I will provide a summary of the views expressed in our summer engagement events and citizen focus groups.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Chairs of the Economy, Trade, and Rural Affairs Committee; the Local Government and Housing Committee; the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee; the Children and Young People and Education Committee; and the Health and Social Care Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Peredur Owen Griffiths'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial 'P' and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

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

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Delyth Jewell MS

Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

16th June 2025

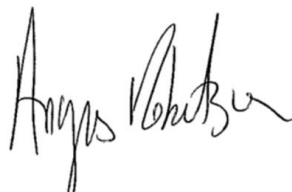
Dear Ms Jewell,

Thank you again for inviting me to provide evidence to the Senedd's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee inquiry on the Welsh Government's International Strategy.

As you are aware, unfortunately I was unavailable to give evidence in person or via video link on 21 May. I am pleased to provide written evidence on the development of Scotland's International Strategy.

I hope you find the enclosed document useful for your ongoing inquiry.

Kind Regards,



Angus Robertson

Scottish Ministers, special advisers and the Permanent Secretary are covered by the terms of the Lobbying (Scotland) Act 2016. See www.lobbying.scot

Written Evidence Submitted by the Scottish Government

WELSH SENEDD CULTURE, COMMUNICATIONS, WELSH LANGUAGE, SPORT, AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

EVIDENCE SESSION ON WALES INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY

The Scottish Government's approach to international relations: development of its 2024 International Strategy and its three core areas of focus.

- delivery of the Strategy and how progress is monitored.
 - reporting on progress and availability of information in the public domain.
1. The Scottish Government outlined its approach to international relations in the Global Affairs Framework published in 2022.¹ The Framework sets out the principles underpinning the Scottish Government's international work and the basis on which the Scottish Government prioritises its international activity.
 2. This includes the Scottish Government's commitment that our international work would be built on a "values-based approach, consistent with our focus on fairness and inclusion" which maintains an "internationalist outlook based on cooperation".²
 3. Fundamentally, this approach is rooted in Scotland's commitment to being a Good Global Citizen. This means making a positive contribution to debates on global issues like migration, human rights, biodiversity and the climate crisis.³
 4. Scotland's International Strategy, published in January 2024, builds on the themes of the Global Affairs Framework and provides greater detail on the government's international priorities. The Strategy sets out objectives for the remainder of the current parliamentary term, focusing on three main themes:
 - Economy, trade and investment.
 - Climate change, biodiversity and renewable energy.
 - Relationships, influence and reputation.⁴
 5. The strategy outlines the key areas where the Scottish Government's international work helps to deliver the domestic objectives set out by the previous First Minister, of a more equal society, a fairer and greener economy, and excellent public services while upholding Scotland's reputation as a Good Global Citizen.⁵ See paragraph 33, below, for an explanation of how the Strategy interacts with the latest Programme for Government.

¹ [Scotland's Global Affairs Framework - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/global-affairs-framework/pages/1-100.aspx)

² See paragraph 1 page 2 ([Scotland's Global Affairs Framework - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/global-affairs-framework/pages/1-100.aspx))

³ See paragraph 4 page 3 ([Scotland's Global Affairs Framework - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/global-affairs-framework/pages/1-100.aspx))

⁴ See paragraph 6 page 1 ([Scotland's International Strategy - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/international-strategy/pages/1-100.aspx))

⁵ See paragraph 4 page 3 ([Scotland's International Strategy - gov.scot](https://www.gov.scot/publications/international-strategy/pages/1-100.aspx))

6. Progress on the strategy is monitored by the Scottish Government's Directorate for Culture and External Affairs with oversight through an international board led by directors, other government officials and public bodies in the Scottish administration with international interests. A report on our progress against the three themes outlined in the strategy will be published in late 2025. The Scottish Government has previously published annual reports on the achievements of our international network. The most recent, for 2023-24, can be found on the Scottish Government website.⁶

How the Scottish Government ensures that its feminist approach to international relations is incorporated into the development and delivery of international relations activity.

7. The Scottish Government supports a Feminist Approach to International Relations, as outlined in our FAIR Strategy position paper in 2023.⁷ This approach aims to ensure that our work abroad, and at home, delivers on the Sustainable Development Goals and achieves fairer and more equitable outcomes on global issues such as the rights of women and girls, climate and biodiversity loss.
8. This approach is embedded into the core values of the International Strategy and informs the way we approach global issues.⁸ This means we aim to implement a whole of Government approach and continually review our policies and programmes, where they have an international dimension, to ensure they reflect feminist principles.
9. A notable example of where these feminist principles have been successfully applied is our International Development programmes. We take a human-rights and a feminist approach to this work, underpinned by bespoke International Development Principles.⁹ Our approach to international development is therefore one that prioritises partner led and inclusive programmes that maintain projects that contribute to gender equality and support marginalised groups such as women and girls.¹⁰

The role of the Scottish Government's overseas offices in delivering its international priorities.

10. The Scottish Government's international network plays a vital role in delivering the Government's priorities across all key themes of the strategy. Located in London, Brussels, Dublin, Berlin, Paris, Copenhagen, Ottawa, Washington D.C and Beijing, these offices work alongside Scottish Development International's (SDI) network of more than 30 trade and investment offices in 23 countries across the globe.¹¹

⁶ [International Network Annual Report: 2023-24](#)

⁷ [Feminist Approach to International Relations](#)

⁸ See section 1.3 paragraph 8 page 3 ([Scotland's International Strategy - gov.scot](#))

⁹ [International development review - principles - gov.scot](#)

¹⁰ See page 6 ([Scotland's International Strategy - gov.scot](#))

¹¹ See "Network Overview" page 8 ([Scotland's International Network - International network: annual report 2023-2024 - gov.scot](#))

11. Their role includes attracting investment, creating opportunities for businesses and developing people to people links that promote Scotland's cultural sector and economy. The network does this by engaging with host governments, international organisations and businesses to facilitate high-level engagement and to provide a base for Scottish public sector and commercial stakeholders to interact with international partners.
12. Through these engagements, the Scottish Government has been able to build a better understanding of common challenges and priorities with international partners on issues such as climate change, wellbeing economy, culture and trade. This helps us to develop new cultural and commercial projects and grow partnerships with partner countries. Through our people-to-people engagement we aim to encourage people to come to live and work, study, visit and do business in Scotland.

How the Scottish Government works with the UK Government and UK-wide agencies on delivery.

13. As the Committee are aware, the 2013 Memorandum of Understanding¹² (specifically, the Concordat on International Relations) on how Devolved Governments can act internationally recognises our legitimate interest in aspects of international relations.
14. While the UK Government reserves the power to develop and deliver foreign policy on behalf of the UK, the Scottish Government and its Ministers have an interest, particularly where it has a direct or indirect impact on areas that are devolved in certain areas of international engagement. This includes, "international and European policy making in relation to devolved matters, notably where implementing action by the devolved administrations may be required"¹³.
15. Also included are aspects of trade and investment, the transition to net zero, higher education, culture, and promoting Scotland's global reputation. Some recent examples of practical and constructive engagement and joint working between the Scottish and UK Government, on issues connected to the themes of the International Strategy are: supporting displaced Ukrainians; Green Freeports¹⁴ and Investment Zones.¹⁵
16. Officials from both the UK and Scottish Governments, including officials based in Scotland's international offices, work together to ensure that Scottish Ministers can conduct their legitimate international activities. Our officials have regular contact with UK counterparts on the development of Scottish Government international work and overseas programmes. UK Government officials should also inform and involve Scottish Government officials on

¹² [Devolution: memorandum of understanding and supplementary agreement - GOV.UK](#)

¹³ See paragraph 18 ([MoU between the UK and the Devolved Administrations.pdf](#))

¹⁴ [Green freeports - Cities and regions - gov.scot](#)

¹⁵ [Two Scottish Investment Zones announced - gov.scot](#)

international agreements and structures which touch on devolved policy matters.¹⁶

17. While intergovernmental relations (IGR) function reasonably well on the day to day delivery of international activity, there remains room for improvement including in communication between Whitehall Departments and their Scottish Government counterparts. We are actively considering how to make improvements in how international matters are considered in the IGR space. In addition, there is scope for the FCDO to consider more actively how it promotes and highlights the devolved nations overseas, especially in places where there is no or limited devolved presence. These are issues we are discussing with Welsh Government and Northern Ireland Executive counterparts as well as with the UK Government.

How the Scottish Government works with stakeholders on delivery.

18. The Scottish Government's policy teams, international offices and colleagues in the SDI network all engage with stakeholders on a regular basis to deliver our international objectives for the benefit of the people of Scotland.

19. Stakeholder engagement on delivery occurs across all three themes of the International Strategy. An example of this in the Reputation, Influence and Relationships strand is our aim to strengthen links with public sector and third sector organisations through a variety of formal and informal agreements, partnerships and events. These activities seek to support our “internationally recognised cultural and higher education sectors” and networks that have “a connection and affinity for Scotland, through business links, the Scottish diaspora, and international alumni of Scottish higher education institutions”.¹⁷

20. In addition to this, Brand Scotland, a “cross-organisational partnership”, aims to bring together “the marketing and communications efforts of the Scottish Government, key public sector organisations and wider partners behind a shared brand narrative”. This approach aims to provide coherent and consistent communications that reinforce positive messages about Scotland internationally, which in turn supports the growth of Scotland's economy.¹⁸

21. On international development, our policy team works with a range of in-country stakeholders (e.g. civil society organisations, universities, schools and health services), investing in projects which focus on sustainable development and climate adaptation. Through our new approach (aligning with our International Development Principles and taking a feminist approach), we aim “equalise power between Scotland and its partner countries; Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Pakistan”.¹⁹

¹⁶ See annex D1 ([MoU between the UK and the Devolved Administrations.pdf](#))

¹⁷ See paragraph 5 page 6 ([Scotland's International Strategy - gov.scot](#))

¹⁸ See sections 4.1 to 4.3 page 6 ([Scotland's International Strategy - gov.scot](#))

¹⁹ [How we work - International development - gov.scot](#)

The Scottish Government's approach to the development of additional strategies and how they supplement its main strategy.

22. The Arctic Connections Policy Framework and the Scottish Connections Framework are examples of geographical and thematic policy statements that guide Scottish Government international activity. These specific frameworks, as well as the principle of geographic and/or thematic areas of interest, are incorporated into the broader overarching International Strategy.
23. The Arctic Connections Framework was launched in 2019 as a prospectus for knowledge and policy exchange across a wide range of devolved policy areas with our Arctic partners. Under the framework, which was developed in partnership with an expert advisory panel, the Arctic Connections fund was created to support projects and activities promoted by third sector and community-based organisations that raise awareness of Scottish-Arctic links and create new opportunities for international collaboration with the Arctic.²⁰
24. The International Strategy committed the Scottish Government to “evaluate the impact of the Arctic Connections policy framework before the end of the current parliamentary session in order to inform the future direction of Scotland’s Arctic policy and engagement.”²¹
25. The Scottish Government and SDI network of offices have engaged extensively with our diaspora as part of their objective to promote Scotland overseas. The development of the Scottish Connections Framework in 2023 emphasises the importance of Scotland’s diaspora community to improving and expanding our global connections. Through engagement we hope to build on these people-to-people relationships for the benefit of Scotland and diaspora communities.²²
26. Our approach has been to regard the diaspora community as self-selecting; therefore, our definition includes those with historic family connections to Scotland, those who have lived here, worked or studied here or those who just have an affinity with Scotland. The International Strategy reaffirms the Scottish Government’s desire to work closely with diaspora groups, consolidate the links already established, and to create a more vibrant and ambitious network of connections.²³
27. Harnessing these connections plays an important role in promoting Scottish businesses, culture and Scotland’s indigenous languages, Scots and Gaelic, both of which are central to Scotland’s cultural heritage.²⁴ Through annual events such as Tartan Week in New York, we are able to leverage Scotland’s connections with North America to celebrate our culture and heritage.

²⁰ [Arctic Connections: Scotland's Arctic policy framework - gov.scot](#)

²¹ See section 1.5 “Our Near Neighbourhood” page 3 ([Scotland's International Strategy - gov.scot](#))

²² See “Introduction” page 1 ([Scottish Connections Framework - gov.scot](#))

²³ See section 4.4 “ Scottish Connections” ([Scotland's International Strategy - gov.scot](#))

²⁴ See “Scotland’s Culture” page 3 ([Scottish Connections Framework - gov.scot](#))

How the Scottish Government's international relations are resourced.

28. The Scottish Government's international work is resourced through funds allocated by Ministers in the Scottish Budget. The external affairs portfolio budget is managed by the Directorate for Culture and External Affairs and the EU Directorate. Other Directorates in other portfolios are also resourced for international engagement to support domestic policies, notably the Directorate for International Trade and Investment and, within the DG Economy group, funding allocated through Scottish Enterprise to support the work of SDI. A breakdown of Directorate budgets can be found at the Scottish Government website.²⁵ However, this does not provide an exact figure for all aspects of internationally facing policy work or engagement.
29. The annual fiscal resource budget for the Scottish Government international offices in 2025-26 is approximately £7.2 million. This includes our two standalone Scotland House offices in London and Brussels plus the international offices located on FCDO platforms. This figure does not include Scottish Development International offices who maintain their own network to promote trade and investment.²⁶
30. Our International Development work focuses on a small but targeted group of partner led programmes in Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia and Pakistan to help those countries respond to global challenges and achieve the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. In the period 2021 to 2026 the budget for the International Development Fund (IDF), established in 2005, is forecast to rise from around £10 million in 2021 to £15 million by mid-2026.²⁷
31. We also respond to humanitarian crises globally, with support, principally through our Humanitarian Emergency Panel, with a sustained budget of £1 million. And we support a separate Climate Justice Fund, which includes innovative funding for Loss and Damage, with a budget of £36 million over this Parliament to support climate justice in the Global South.

The Scottish Government's international relations priorities and areas of focus for the next 12 months.

32. The International Strategy details the overall ambition for Scotland's international work from the time of publication, January 2024, up to the end of the current Parliament in May 2026. The Scottish Government's priorities for the period 2025-26 are set out in the Programme for Government (PfG). The current PfG was published by the First Minister on 6 May 2025 and includes a number of commitments that align with the broad themes of the International Strategy.

²⁵ [The Scottish Government Consolidated Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2024 - gov.scot](#)

²⁶ See page 8 ([Scotland's International Network - International network: annual report 2023-2024 - gov.scot](#))

²⁷ See paragraphs 2-3 ([International development - gov.scot](#))

33. For example, aligned to the theme of Economy, Trade and Investment, the First Minister has prioritised growing Scotland’s economy by attracting inward investment and expanding SDI support to maximise Scottish businesses opportunities in overseas markets. This is detailed in the Global Competitiveness Six Point Plan in the PfG.²⁸
34. On Climate and Renewable Energy, the PfG prioritises seeking new investment for renewable energy projects, developing new supply chains for offshore wind projects as well as a commitment to supporting global action on Climate Justice. This includes “leveraging our presidency of Regions4 and co-chair position in Under2, to drive forward ambition and implement bold climate action” and investing “£36 million over this Parliament to support climate justice” in the Global South.²⁹
35. On child poverty, we are clear that our commitment to upholding and promoting rights does not stop at a border. The PfG includes the commitment that we will not turn our backs on those overseas who need assistance – keeping our promise to countries across the Global South to grow our international development budget to £15 million per annum and providing £1 million for humanitarian crises.
36. In addition, we will continue to develop “legislation to incorporate certain international human rights treaties into Scots law”³⁰ to ensure Scotland is a fairer and more equal country and to take action to eradicate Child Poverty, a key commitment of the First Minister’s administration.

Scottish Government

Directorate for Culture and External Affairs
May 2025

²⁸ See page 2 ([Programme for Government 2025 to 2026 - gov.scot](#))

²⁹ See page 4 ([Programme for Government 2025 to 2026 - gov.scot](#))

³⁰ See page 3 ([Programme for Government 2025 to 2026 - gov.scot](#))

Eluned Morgan MS
First Minister
Welsh Government

29 May 2025

UK-Ukraine One Hundred Year Partnership Agreement

Dear Eluned,

Thank you for your response to our letter of 23 April 2025 regarding the UK-Ukraine 100 Year Partnership Agreement, which we considered at our meeting on 21 May 2025.

Whilst we are grateful for your response, we would wish to reiterate some of the questions we posed, as we are keen to obtain this information. We feel, in particular, that the response we have received lacks details about how the Agreement will be implemented in Wales, including any resource allocations that will be associated with it, and indeed details about the role of the Welsh Government and Welsh organisations in its delivery. We would ask you to reconsider our request for the following information:

- what role the Welsh Government may have in delivering the partnership, particularly in devolved areas such as 100 school partnerships to foster cultural exchanges;
- the treaty's implementation in Wales, including the involvement of Welsh organisations and Welsh Government delivery partners;
- the Welsh Government's view on the treaty's opportunities and benefits to Wales; and
- whether regular UK-wide intergovernmental discussions are taking place to coordinate the implementation of the new arrangements.

Our consideration of your response at our meeting on 21 May gave rise to further questions and we would therefore be grateful if you could also specify:

- what resource, if any, the Welsh Government is allocating for the delivery of the partnership;

- how the Welsh Government is supporting Welsh organisations and partners to deliver the partnership agreement;
- confirmation of which UK Government departments the Welsh Government has had contact with about the Partnership Agreement, as referenced by both the Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip in Plenary and the agreement's Explanatory Memorandum; and
- the relationship between the Partnership Agreement and existing Wales-Ukraine arrangements and activity that fall outside of its scope, for example twinning towns and schools.

We would be grateful to receive a response to this letter by 11 June, ahead of your Ministerial evidence session with the Committee on 18 June.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

17 June 2025

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter of 29 May regarding the UK-Ukraine 100 Year Partnership Agreement (the Agreement).

As outlined in my original response, this is a UK Government-led Agreement, reflecting the closer relationship that the UK has developed with Ukraine since the start of the unprovoked and illegal invasion by Russia.

The UK Government is still discussing details with Ukraine about how the Agreement will be implemented and delivered. My officials receive regular updates on the Agreement's progress. The latest update on 23 May confirmed that this Agreement has not moved into the delivery phase yet and it is not clear when this will happen. Therefore, the Welsh Government's role in how we support the delivery of this Agreement is not clear at this stage and no resource will be allocated until the details have been finalised between the UK and Ukraine.

If Welsh organisations or delivery partners want to be involved in co-operation projects under the Agreement, they can go through the relevant UK Government department, and officials can help with signposting if required. As this is a UK-led agreement, the UK Government will retain a coordinating role and oversight. There is scope for activity by the devolved governments but details about how to get involved have not been finalised.

The UK Government originally approached the Welsh Government's Communities team to engage around the development of the Agreement. This was due to the existing relationship between the UK and Welsh governments on Ukrainian resettlement. The International Relations and Trade team was also identified as having an interest and this team subsequently coordinated the Welsh Government's comments on the near final draft.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Eluned.Morgan@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Eluned.Morgan@gov.wales

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.

Until discussions around the implementation of this Agreement have been finalised by the UK and Ukrainian governments, it is not possible to provide any further details on how the Welsh Government will be involved.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Eluned Morgan

MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

May 2025

INWARD VISITS	
20 May	Visit to Wales by Palestinian Head of Mission The First Minister intended to meet with the Palestinian Head of Mission in Cardiff but, due to unforeseen circumstances, he was unable to travel so they held a telephone call instead. The call covered the conflict in Gaza and actions taken by the UK Government.
OUTWARD VISITS	
19 May	Cabinet Secretary for Economy in London for UK-EU Summit Reception The Cabinet Secretary for Economy travelled to London for the UK-EU Summit reception to discuss aspects of the EU-UK Deal. The reception was at 10 Downing Street and was attended by the Prime Minister, UK Cabinet Ministers, EU Commissioner Šefčovič and around 100 business representatives.

Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
UK Government

23 May 2025

Restoring control over the immigration system: white paper

Dear Prime Minister,

I write as chair of the Senedd's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee to express our deep concern about the UK Government's immigration plans, as set out in the [Restoring control over the immigration system white paper](#), and their potential implications for areas within the Committee's remit.

As the Committee responsible for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's international relations, we have taken a keen interest in the effects of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on and in Wales. Our work has involved documenting some of the most damaging effects of Brexit on Wales' economy, our culture, and our way of life, and we are deeply concerned that many of these effects could be exacerbated by the proposed immigration plans. We question what assessment has been made as to whether the proposals could create barriers to promoting the UK as a diverse and inclusive place to live and work, and in turn affect our culture and arts.

We note that the white paper states that you will "introduce new English language requirements across a broader range of immigration routes, for both main applicants and their dependants, to ensure better knowledge of English, including an assessment of improvements over time." We note with concern that there is no mention of the Welsh language as a qualifying language. As I am sure you will be aware, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 gives the Welsh language official status in Wales, and we believe that that should be reflected in both current and future immigration policies.

We would be grateful if you could set out:



- what assessment has been undertaken of the likely effects of these proposals on arts and culture;
- what consideration has been given to the Welsh language as a qualifying language in policy development;
- whether the Welsh Government has had any involvement in the development of the proposals in the white paper; and
- what involvement the Welsh Government will have in the future.

I would be grateful if you could address the concerns outlined above at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Delyth Jewell MS
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

17 June 2025

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 May to the Prime Minister sharing the committee's concerns about the impact the Immigration White Paper will have on Wales. I am replying as the Minister for Migration & Citizenship. Please see below responses to each of your questions.

What assessment has been undertaken of the likely effects of these proposals on arts and culture?

The UK's immigration offer enables the most talented individuals within arts and culture to come to the UK through a variety of different routes, including through the Global Talent route. As part of our mission to promote growth, and building on the current system, the proposals in the White Paper will continue to ensure highly skilled creatives have opportunities to come to the UK to contribute to our economy and cultural heritage.

The UK Government, and our endorsing body partners, always consider the needs of the devolved nations when amendments to the Global Talent route are made. Arts Council England act as the arts and culture endorsing body for practitioners throughout the whole of the UK, and work closely with a number of other bodies covering a wide array of cultural occupations including fashion design and architecture to set criteria which identifies top talent who can base themselves within Wales and the rest of the UK.

For those academics focusing on arts and cultural fields, a number of pathways specifically cover individuals coming to work in and with Welsh institutions. For example, UK Research and Innovation, one of the Global Talent endorsing bodies, already accept receipt of funding from bodies such as Ser Cymru, the Arts Council of Wales and the Senedd as demonstrating an individual has exceptional talent. Individuals who will be taking up research roles at Welsh organisations such as the National Library of Wales also qualify under a fast-track Global Talent pathway managed by the Royal Society, British Academy and Royal Academy of Engineering.

As part of the White Paper the Government are looking to make it simpler and easier for top design talent to use our Global Talent visa. Further details of this proposal will be published in due course.

What consideration has been given to the Welsh language as a qualifying language in policy development?

We are committed to exploring this issue and we will discuss the matter with the Welsh Government in due course.

Whether the Welsh Government has had any involvement in the development of the proposals in the white paper?

The Welsh Government were invited to provide proposals for inclusion in the White Paper and I met with Jane Hutt before publication to discuss the proposed reforms.

What involvement the Welsh Government will have in the future?

This Government values the input of the Welsh Government and continues to work closely on important issues. The Welsh Government provided suggestions for inclusion in the Immigration White Paper, and the White Paper and new Labour Market Evidence Group were discussed at the Home Office Interministerial Group (IMG) for Safety, Security and Migration on Wednesday 21 May 2025, attended by Jane Hutt CBE, MS.

The Home Office will continue to engage with the Welsh Government on the implications of the White Paper for Wales, at both official level and Ministerial level.

With best wishes,



**Seema Malhotra MP
Minister for Migration & Citizenship**

Agenda Item 8.4

Rebecca Evans MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



Ein cyf/Our Ref: MA/RE/1216/25

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations
Senedd Cymru
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1SN

17 June 2025

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee's report laid on 1 May 2025 on the first two Legislative Consent Memoranda laid in respect of the Data (Use and Access) Bill ("the Bill").

As you will be aware, the Senedd plenary debate for the Legislative Consent Motion on the Bill was held on 6 May 2025. My recommendation was that the Senedd gave its consent for the relevant provisions within the Bill, and I am pleased that the motion was agreed. I have since laid a further SLCM (No.5) on 16 May 2025 regarding provisions within Part 3 of the Bill, which make supplementary provision to the clauses for which consent was previously sought.

I would like to thank you, as well as the members of your Committee, for your scrutiny of the first Legislative Consent Memorandum (LCM) laid on the Bill on 2 January 2025 and Supplementary LCM (SLCM) (No.2) laid on 12 March 2025.

I acknowledge the conclusions reached by the Committee in relation to the potential divergence on data protection between the UK and EU, and concerns regarding the impact of this on the EU data adequacy decisions as well as the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA).

On the matter of divergence on data protection, I can confirm that none of the amendments that are the subject of SLCM No.2 amend the UK data protection regime. Therefore, these amendments do not either reduce, or increase, the likelihood of divergence between the UK and the EU on data protection. I can also confirm that this is the case for the subsequent SLCMs, No.3 and No.4, laid on the Bill on 3 April 2025 and 28 April 2025 respectively.

On the two EU-UK data adequacy decisions and the potential future undermining of the TCA, the Welsh Government will continue to raise its concerns through the appropriate inter-governmental channels. However, adequacy is a non-devolved matter and the responsibility for the renewal process for the UK data adequacy decisions sit with the EU

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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.

Commission. In March, the EU Commission proposed a six-month extension to its adequacy decisions to provide time for it to complete its assessment on renewal once the Data (Use and Access) Bill had completed its passage through the UK Parliament. Therefore, from an adequacy perspective, withholding consent on the Bill would not have resolved this matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a long tail on the 's'.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

Agenda Item 9.5

Rebecca Evans MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: PO/RE/294/2025

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations
SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

18 June 2025

Dear Delyth,

I write to you following my appearance at the CCWLSIR Committee where you asked for confirmation of the engagement we have with EU institutions.

As you are aware, Wales' relationship with Europe and the European Union (EU) remains of significant importance beyond the United Kingdom's exit from the EU. The EU continues to be Wales' largest trading partner, and the EU–UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement ensures that decisions made by the EU will continue to have direct implications for Wales.

The Welsh Government's office in Brussels plays a vital role in ensuring that Welsh interests are represented and that Wales' profile is elevated within EU institutions and networks. Officials based in the Brussels office are responsible for developing and maintaining day-to-day working relationships with a wide range of stakeholders to support these objectives.

The appointment of Derek Vaughan as the Welsh Government Representative on Europe has been instrumental in maintaining our connection with the EU and ensuring that Wales' voice continues to be heard.

The Brussels office regularly engages with Members of the European Parliament to promote policies developed in Wales, such as the Well-being of Future Generations Act and the Basic Income pilot. Welsh Government Ministers have also presented to the European Parliament's Committee on Culture and Education and the Committee on Regional Development, sharing insights on initiatives such as the Taith programme and our broader approach to EU engagement.

This engagement is further strengthened by the office's leadership roles in regional networks such as the Conference of Peripheral Maritime Regions and the Vanguard Initiative. These networks enable us to build connections within the EU and foster interregional collaboration among academics, small and medium-sized enterprises, and public sector organisations.

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In relation to the European Commission, Welsh Government officials and the Future Generations Commissioner have met with Commissioner Glenn Micallef, the first-ever EU Commissioner for Intergenerational Fairness. This meeting provided an opportunity to share a decade of learning from our pioneering Well-being of Future Generations Act, as the EU begins to focus more closely on generational challenges and opportunities.

Learning from the EU is also a key element of the Brussels office's work. The team regularly reports back to colleagues in Wales on EU initiatives and legislation that could inform and shape Welsh policy. Recently, we hosted a panel event in collaboration with the European Policy Centre on the circular economy. This event not only showcased the work being undertaken in Wales but also provided a platform to hear from the European Commission and other stakeholders about their approaches in this area.

Throughout the year, we create opportunities for Welsh Government Ministers to engage with senior stakeholders in the European Parliament, the European Commission, and industry partners. A prime example of this is the programme of events held around Saint David's Day, during which the First Minister has previously engaged with Members of the European Parliament, promoted the excellent research projects of Welsh universities, and encouraged investment into Wales by engaging with business leaders.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

Agenda Item 8.6

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros
Newid Hinsawdd a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate
Change and Rural Affairs



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: PO/HIDCC/0303/25

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1SN

24 June 2025

Dear Mike

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to notify you of the seventh meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Standing Committee (IMSC), which will take place on 26 June 2025.

The Standing Committee will be chaired by the Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Gaelic, Kate Forbes MSP. I will represent the Welsh Government at this virtual meeting. I anticipate the meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the industrial strategies, the UK Internal Market Act 2020, the Sewel Convention and the UK Legislation Programme, along with other current affairs issues.

I have copied this letter to the Chairs of the Finance Committee, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

I will provide an update after the meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Huw Irranca-Davies AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Brif Weinidog ac Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Newid Hinsawdd
a Materion Gwledig
Deputy First Minister and Cabinet Secretary for Climate Change and Rural Affairs

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Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Our ref: RE/PO/306/2025

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Welsh Parliament
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SeneddLJC@senedd.wales

25 June 2025

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to notify you that the Tourism Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) will meet on 22 July 2025.

This will be the first meeting of the IMG since the publication of the Review of Intergovernmental Relations in January 2022 and will be chaired by the UK Government Minister of State for Creative Industries, Arts and Tourism, Chris Bryant MP. I will represent Welsh Government at this virtual meeting.

I anticipate the meeting will provide an opportunity to discuss the UK Government's plan to increase international tourism, and updates from all four governments in relation to activity and issues in their respective areas.

I have copied this letter to the Chairs of the Finance Committee, the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee, and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Planning
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a Chynllunio

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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.

Agenda Item 8.7

sportwales
chwaraeon cymru

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26.06.2025

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair of the Culture, Communications,
Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff,
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Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 22 May 2025 regarding the distribution of funding in Wales, to which I replied on 26 May.

I promised in my reply that, in response to a specific ask, we would publish final award funding allocations to national governing bodies (NGBs) and all our various Partners so that they are publicly available. I can confirm that this has been completed and they are now available on our website – [Final Funding Values](#).

As you know, the allocation of funding to Sport Wales from Welsh Government is at a level that provides significant challenge in terms of trying to satisfy everybody's expectations and funding to any partner is discretionary.

It should be noted that these investment figures are directly for the National Governing Body of the sport or National Partner and, importantly, our offering extends beyond that as we often also directly support community clubs and organisations via a range of other mechanisms.

Thank you once again for your letter and for the interest and support you show to our sector in your role as Chair of the Senedd Committee.

Yours Sincerely,



Brian Davies OBE
Chief Executive
Sport Wales



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