



Welsh Affairs Committee

Wednesday, 22 April 202622/04/2026

Rt Hon Ian Murray
Minister of State (Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts)
Department for Culture, Media and Sport

Dear Minister Murray,

I am writing following recent correspondence between your Department and the Senedd Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee, on the appointment process for the Chair of S4C, the Welsh language broadcaster.

As I am sure you know, the current process to appoint the Chair of S4C involves pre-appointment scrutiny from a House of Commons Select Committee, as set out in the Cabinet Office Guidance. In May 2011, then Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport Jeremy Hunt, wrote to the Welsh Affairs Committee to invite them to hold a pre-appointment hearing alongside the Culture, Media and Sport Committee for the Chair of S4C. This is a role both Committees shared until 2020, with the pre-appointment hearing now being conducted by just the Welsh Affairs Committee. This arrangement reflects broadcasting being reserved to the UK Government. It was therefore disappointing that neither the Welsh Affairs Committee nor the Culture, Media and Sport Committee were copied into your recent correspondence with the Senedd.

Additionally, in a letter to Delyth Jewell MS, Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee, on 24 September 2025, you stated that "our experience in the process that led to the appointment of Delyth Evans as S4C Chair was that these arrangements worked well [...] We therefore have no plans to change current appointment processes." I would appreciate an explanation on why you now believe the appointment process should be changed.

The Welsh Affairs Committee regularly collaborates with the Senedd, inviting MSs to guest at different Committee sessions and keeping our Senedd colleagues informed of our work. As explained in your letter in September 2025, the current appointment process does involve the Welsh Government, and additionally we would welcome Senedd colleagues to write to the Welsh Affairs Committee with any concerns either pre or post appointment hearing with the future Chair of S4C. Senedd colleagues are also



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welcome to request to guest at the Welsh Affairs Committee sessions as well, which the Standing Orders already make provision for.

In the future, I would appreciate a guarantee that the Welsh Affairs Committee and the Culture, Media and Sport Committee will be consulted and updated on any proposed changes to the pre-appointment processes regarding S4C.

I would also like confirmation that the Cabinet Office guidance regarding the pre-appointment hearing for the Chair of S4C remains unchanged, and that any additional scrutiny by the Senedd would be after that held by the Commons to reflect the reserved nature of Broadcasting.

I am copying this letter to Dame Caroline Dinenage MP, Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Ruth Jones MP
Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee



Department
for Culture,
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13 April 2026

Ruth Jones MP
Chair
Welsh Affairs Committee
House of Commons
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INT2026/03405/DC

Dear Ruth,

Thank you for your letter dated 25 March regarding the appointment process for the Chair of S4C. I appreciate the opportunity to clarify the Government's position on this and to address your concerns.

Clarification of the Appointments Process

I would like to reassure the Committee that the formal appointment process of the Chair will remain unchanged and continues to be governed by the Broadcasting Act 1990 (as amended by the Media Act 2024).

Broadcasting is a reserved matter and the Secretary of State will retain the statutory responsibility for making these appointments. The recent correspondence with the Senedd Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee does not signal a change in this legal framework. The Government has no plans to pursue legislative changes that make any formal change to the appointment process.

I have expressed that I would not object to the Senedd Committee inviting future proposed S4C chair candidates to their own hearing on an advisory basis. The purpose would be to allow the Senedd to share its findings with the Welsh and UK governments, and with your Committee, for consideration before a final appointment is made. It would not grant the Senedd a power of veto or amend the existing House of Commons scrutiny process. The Government remains committed to the established Cabinet Office guidance, ensuring that House of Commons scrutiny continues to reflect the reserved nature of broadcasting.



Future Collaboration

I acknowledge your disappointment regarding the lack of notification for previous correspondence. I agree that it is important that both the Welsh Affairs Committee and the Culture, Media and Sport Committee remain fully informed of any proposed changes to the S4C Chair pre-appointment processes. Moving forward, I will ensure that both Committees, along with the Wales Office, will be copied into all relevant correspondence.

We value the ongoing collaboration between the UK's Government and its Parliament, the Welsh Government, and the Senedd in bolstering Welsh-language broadcasting and ensuring the continued success of S4C to deliver for Welsh-speaking audiences worldwide.

Yours sincerely,


The Rt Hon Ian Murray MP
Minister for Creative Industries, Media and Arts

Copied: Dame Caroline Dinenage MP, Chair of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee;
The Rt Hon Jo Stevens MP, Secretary of State for Wales