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6 November 2026

Ruth Jones MP
Chair of the Welsh Affairs Committee
House of Commons
Palace of Westminster
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Ruth,

I am writing in response to the Committee's recent letter requesting further detail on the proposals announced by BBC Wales. Thank you for your interest in this matter as Chair of the Welsh Affairs Select Committee, and please also pass on my thanks to fellow Committee members for their continued engagement with BBC Wales's work.

As you will be aware, the BBC is required to deliver substantial savings across the organisation and, as part of that wider challenge, BBC Wales is required to make savings of at least £9 million by the end of 2027/28 with further savings in the 2028/29 financial year. The proposals which we announced on 24 September will contribute towards meeting the overall BBC savings requirement of £500m, while supporting continued investment in the content and services that matter most to audiences across Wales.

These are difficult decisions, and we recognise the impact they may have on colleagues, audiences and partners. However, we believe they are necessary in order to respond to the financial challenges facing the BBC while continuing our strong commitment to serving audiences across Wales in both Welsh and English.

I have attached a more detailed statement explaining the proposed changes and the rationale behind them, which is also available here:
https://www.bbc.co.uk/mediacentre/articles/2026/bbc-cymru-wales-savings-plans

In addition to the detail outlined in the statement, I'm happy to address the requests for further information on specific areas.

Firstly, in relation to BBC Radio Wales, overall broadcast hours will remain unchanged, although some schedule changes are planned. There will also be fewer programmes commissioned beyond our regular daily strands. We expect an annual net reduction of around 10 hours of this kind of

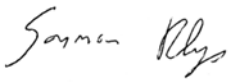
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commissioned content on Radio Wales. The overall reduction in BBC Radio Wales's total budget will be 11% in 2027/28. The reduction in BBC Radio Cymru's budget will be the same, at 11%.

Beyond radio, there will be a 12% reduction in our English-language television commissioning budget in 27/28. Discussions with S4C are continuing regarding the impact of our financial challenges on the Strategic Partnership budget, recognising the importance of continuing to deliver high-quality programming and complying with our statutory obligations.

If you or any members of the Committee have any questions about the announcement or would like to discuss any aspect of the proposals further, please do get in touch. We would be very happy to answer any follow-up questions, provide further information or meet with the Committee if that would be helpful. We would also welcome the opportunity to discuss the forthcoming DCMS White Paper on Charter Review and its implications for audiences, services and the creative sector in Wales once it has been published.

Yours sincerely,



Garmon Rhys
Interim Director, BBC Wales