



# Department for Culture, Media & Sport

Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP  
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16 January 2024

S4C Board Members,  
Sianel Pedwar Cymru (S4C)

Dear Board Members,  
Annwyl aelodau'r Bwrdd,

Since its launch in 1982, S4C has made a valuable contribution to the lives and wellbeing of Welsh speakers and learners. This Government is committed to helping S4C to adapt to the changing media landscape, including through the vital reforms in the Media Bill which is currently going through Parliament. You will also be aware of how we are supporting S4C with an additional £7.5m per year from April 2022 until 2028 on top of its funding from the Licence Fee to support its digital development. I recognise and celebrate the many achievements S4C has made in the last few years, including as a result of this additional support.

Despite these achievements, S4C has been experiencing a challenging period. Serious concerns have been raised including in the Capital Law report. My department has always been clear that the Board has a responsibility to address the concerns raised with commensurate seriousness.

I followed with interest the evidence sessions last week at both the Welsh Affairs Select Committee in the House of Commons and the Senedd's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee. As was noted in these appearances, recent events show that a significant amount of work is required to rebuild trust in and at S4C - not just the trust of its staff, but also that of those with whom the organisation works more widely. Clearly there are lessons to learn, and it is vital that such reflection is incorporated into your plans moving forward.

Developing those plans needs to proceed without delay. I therefore strongly encourage the Board and the acting senior team at S4C to move as quickly as possible to agree a programme of future-facing work which addresses the serious issues of culture, management and policies which are needed in any working environment. Given the scale of the challenge, I would also invite you to consider seeking external advice and input to help identify how S4C's culture and practices can be strengthened. I request that you provide me and my officials with an update about the Board's collective decisions, detailed next steps and timescales.

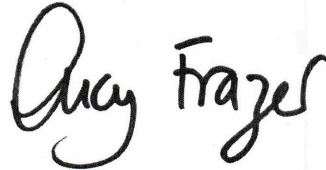
It is important to bring a fresh start to S4C to help the organisation to draw a line under this period. The Chair has confirmed to me today that he will not seek appointment for a second term. I will therefore launch the process to appoint a new chair of S4C. I will shortly confirm the arrangements for both the selection of a new chair, which will be run in accordance with the Governance Code on Public Appointments; and I will work with the Board to nominate an interim chair after the Chair's term ends on 31 March while this appointment process concludes.



The UK government remains committed to ensuring the future success of S4C and Welsh-language broadcasting.

I am copying this letter to the acting Chief Executives of S4C, the Secretary of State for Wales, the Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism in the Welsh Government, the chair of the House of Commons Welsh Affairs Committee and the chair of the Senedd Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,

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

Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP  
**Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport**