



Department for Culture, Media & Sport

Rt Hon Lucy Frazer KC MP
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2 February 2024

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

INT2024/00866/DC

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter of 11 January 2024, regarding the recent challenges at S4C. Most of the points raised are addressed in my letter to the Board of S4C on 16 January 2024, to which you were copied. I am continuing to treat this issue with the utmost seriousness. As its sponsor department, DCMS has had frequent contact with S4C at senior official level as well as through correspondence and meetings between ministers and S4C leadership.

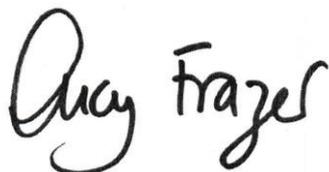
With regard to the Committee's specific question about the formal role of the Welsh Government in the public appointment of the new Chair of S4C, as you will know, S4C public appointments are made in compliance with the Broadcasting Act 1990 and appointments are made by the Secretary of State. While broadcasting is not a devolved issue, the DCMS Concordat with the Welsh Assembly Government (April 2011 Annex E Para 7) states that 'DCMS will consult with the Minister for Heritage on "Welsh appointments" to the Boards of the BBC and S4C.'

In accordance with this, as has been standard for previous S4C appointments, the Welsh Government is invited to appoint a representative to the Advisory Assessment Panel, which is responsible for assessing which candidates are appointable for the role. In addition, the Welsh Government is consulted on the role specification prior to the launch of the campaign, and asked to suggest potential candidates to approach for the role. The Welsh Government Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism is also formally consulted for views at the final appointment decision stage. You will be aware that the role is also subject to a pre-appointment scrutiny hearing by a parliamentary Select Committee before an appointment can be confirmed.



I consider that the above measures already provide the Welsh Government with a formal role in the upcoming appointments process for the Chair of S4C and do not consider any changes to be required at this time. The UK Government remains committed to ensuring the future success of S4C and Welsh-language broadcasting.

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