

The Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport
100 Parliament Street,
London,
SW1A 2BQ

17 July 2017

Dear Secretary of State

Review of S4C

In February 2016 your predecessor, John Whittingdale MP, announced that the UK Government intended to carry out a comprehensive review in 2017 looking at the remit, governance and funding of S4C to ensure the broadcaster can continue to meet the needs of Welsh speaking audiences in the future and invest in high-quality programming. In March, the DDCMS announced that it would shortly be launching an independent review of the channel.

In the light of this the National Assembly's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee launched its own Inquiry into the future of S4C. The Committee wanted to play as full a part as possible in the review by carrying out our own inquiry into S4C and making recommendations to be taken into account as part of the independent review.

Our Inquiry has looked at:

- What sufficient funding for S4C looks like. Who should provide it, and how should it be calculated and how should it be supplemented with revenue raised by S4C.
- What S4C's statutory remit should be. Is its current remit fit for a contemporary broadcaster, and if not, how should it change? How should it reflect the digital role of a modern broadcaster?
- What governance and accountability structures S4C should have in place. How should the public accountability of S4C in Wales be dealt with and should responsibility for it be devolved.
- What S4C's relationship with the BBC should look like.
- The visibility of S4C: covering issues such as S4C's prominence on the electronic programme guide and smart TVs.



We have now concluded our evidence and are considering our report. We hope to report in the August and we hope that the report and its recommendations will be taken fully into account by your review once it starts.

The Committee is disappointed that it has been so long since the last review. We believe there is now a pressing need for the planned review to start soon and to conclude its work urgently.

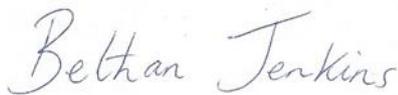
S4C's importance to Wales and the Welsh language cannot be understated. As the Secretary of State for Wales has made clear, S4C is a longstanding and significant part of the UK's public service broadcasting landscape and the channel makes an important contribution to the cultural and economic life of Wales, to the prosperity of the Welsh language and to the strength of our creative sector.

For these reasons, the Committee has asked me to seek a meeting with you when, or soon after, our report is published so that we can present to you our main findings. Although broadcasting is currently a non-devolved issue, S4C's unique place in the life of Wales, and in supporting the Welsh language, means that the National Assembly and its Members have a clear interest in the future of the channel.

I hope you will be able to respond positively to this request. I believe this would demonstrate your recognition of the importance of S4C to Wales and your willingness to engage with representatives of the National Assembly.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Wales and to the Chair of the S4C Authority for information.

Yours sincerely



Bethan Jenkins AM
Chair

