

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations
Committee**

Sir Keir Starmer MP
Prime Minister
UK Government

Senedd Cymru
Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN
SeneddDiwylliant@senedd.cymru
senedd.cymru/SeneddDiwylliant
0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN
SeneddCulture@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddCulture
0300 200 6565

23 May 2025

Restoring control over the immigration system: white paper

Dear Prime Minister,

I write as chair of the Senedd's Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee to express our deep concern about the UK Government's immigration plans, as set out in the [Restoring control over the immigration system white paper](#), and their potential implications for areas within the Committee's remit.

As the Committee responsible for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's international relations, we have taken a keen interest in the effects of the UK's withdrawal from the EU on and in Wales. Our work has involved documenting some of the most damaging effects of Brexit on Wales' economy, our culture, and our way of life, and we are deeply concerned that many of these effects could be exacerbated by the proposed immigration plans. We question what assessment has been made as to whether the proposals could create barriers to promoting the UK as a diverse and inclusive place to live and work, and in turn affect our culture and arts.

We note that the white paper states that you will "introduce new English language requirements across a broader range of immigration routes, for both main applicants and their dependants, to ensure better knowledge of English, including an assessment of improvements over time." We note with concern that there is no mention of the Welsh language as a qualifying language. As I am sure you will be aware, the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011 gives the Welsh language official status in Wales, and we believe that that should be reflected in both current and future immigration policies.

We would be grateful if you could set out:



**Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament**

- what assessment has been undertaken of the likely effects of these proposals on arts and culture;
- what consideration has been given to the Welsh language as a qualifying language in policy development;
- whether the Welsh Government has had any involvement in the development of the proposals in the white paper; and
- what involvement the Welsh Government will have in the future.

I would be grateful if you could address the concerns outlined above at your earliest convenience.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.