

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM  
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Twristiaeth a Chwaraeon  
Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport

Julie James AC/AM  
Arweinydd y Tŷ a'r Prif Chwip  
Leader of the House and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DET/00124/18

Nick Ramsay AM, Russell George AM, Bethan Sayed AM  
Committee Chairs  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1NA

23 March 2018

Dear Nick, Russell & Bethan

Thank you for your letter of 19 February in relation to the draft Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) concerning the relationship between UK Government, the Welsh Government, the National Assembly for Wales and the Office of Communications (Ofcom), arising as a result of the St David's Day announcement and the subsequent Wales Act 2017.

I am grateful that your respective Committees have considered the MoU and for the comments provided in your letter.

As you will be aware, the Welsh Government wants to improve the accountability of broadcasting institutions to the National Assembly and to viewers and listeners in Wales. Following the BBC Charter Review, the BBC now has appropriate accountability to the National Assembly for Wales. As we prepare to appoint the member for Wales to the Ofcom Board for the first time, we are conscious of the need to ensure similar arrangements for Ofcom itself. This will be achieved as a result of this MoU.

We note your request for a pre-appointment hearing to be held with the preferred candidate for the Ofcom Board Member for Wales. However, we are not in a position to agree with this. Ofcom is a UK body and the agreement to appoint a representative for Wales must remain the prerogative of Welsh Ministers, consistent with the approach taken during the recent process for the appointment of an Ofcom Board Member for Scotland. However, once appointed, we would expect the new Ofcom Board Member for Wales to be fully aware of their role in ensuring that Ofcom is properly accountable to all relevant Assembly Committees.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Presiding Officer, Elin Jones AM. We will now seek for the MoU to be signed by the relevant parties as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely



**Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM**

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