

Rhodri Talfan Davies

Director

BBC Cymru Wales

19 February 2019

Dear Rhodri,

### **Representation of Wales on the BBC**

I am writing after a number of people raised concerns with me about the portrayal of Wales in the comedy programme 'Pitching In'. I would like to take this opportunity ask for an update on the work BBC Cymru Wales is doing to improve representation and portrayal of Wales both on BBC Cymru Wales and BBC network.

With this in mind, I would be very grateful if you could provide the following information.

1. In February 2017 the BBC [announced](#) "an additional £8.5m p.a. of new funding" for English language programming for Wales. What is the current level of investment against this target?

When this funding was announced, the BBC said that it would:

- Deliver more than 130 hours of additional programming each year across BBC One Wales, BBC Two Wales and BBC iPlayer.
- Generate at least a further £5m of on-screen investment through co-production agreements with other broadcasters and producers.
- Provide a full mix of programming to inform, educate and entertain – including additional comedy, drama and entertainment.
- Support a new BBC Wales iPlayer channel – providing a new home for Welsh programming available across all devices and in all parts of the UK.
- Boost portrayal and coverage of Wales on the BBC's network channel – with the aim that at least half the additional programming should also be broadcast on the BBC's UK network channels.
- Provide a major financial boost to the Welsh production sector with all new television funding open to full competition.

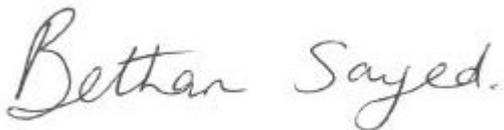
Please could you provide an update of current progress towards these aims?

2. It would also be useful to have an update on the Writersroom Wales, set up by the BBC in March 2017, to champion new and experienced writing talent in Wales, and to:

*...create bespoke opportunities for writers Welsh writers, writers living and working in Wales, and also writers who can authentically depict Welsh stories and Welsh characters and reflect the culture of Wales in their writing.*

3. When Elan Closs Stephens came to our meeting on [26 September](#) she explained the work of the Wales Committee that she chairs. Please can you give more detail on the outcome of their work and ways in which the BBC gathers the views of audiences in Wales, and how this feeds into programme making?
4. I would also be interested in any other work that you do to improve the representation of Wales across the BBC's outputs and strengthen the production sector and creative talent within Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Bethan Sayed

**Chair of the Committee**

**Director Wales**  
**Cyfarwyddwr Cymru**

28 March 2019

Bethan Sayed  
Chair Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1NA

Dear Bethan,

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the representation of Wales on the BBC's services.

As outlined in the BBC's Royal Charter, the portrayal and representation of the UK's four nations is a priority for the BBC and we set out a range of measures we were taking in this respect when we appeared before the committee last September.

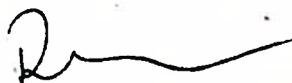
Both Elan Closs Stephens and I would be happy to update you on the progress against these objectives and the additional points you raise as part of the Committee's next annual scrutiny session with the BBC following the publication of its annual report later this year.

However, as we have consistently said, the announcement in 2017 of the additional £8.5 million for BBC Wales means spend on our English language TV services will reach £30 million per annum by 2019/20.

You will also recall that I wrote to you at the beginning of the year, with an update on the work of the Writersroom in Wales and the BBC's support for the wider sector in Wales.

Elan and I look forward to updating you and the Committee further later in the year.

Yours sincerely



**Rhodri Talfan Davies**