DOC 1 - Meeting with BBC Wales (ATISN 26-0028)

From: [WG Official 1] (ECE - Creative Wales)
Sent: 16 June 2026 17:17
To: PS Trefnydd, Chief Whip and Cabinet Minister for Culture and Sport/YP Trefnydd, Prif Chwip a Gweinidog Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chwaraeon
Cc: Langley, Joedi (ECE - Creative Wales); Ifan, Francess (OFM - Special Advisers)
Subject: FW: Nodyn ynglyn a sefyllfa ariannol BBC Cymru

Annwyl Chris / George

As discussed with Chris earlier, Garmon Rhys, Interim Director, BBC Cymru has been in touch regarding a BBC announcement tomorrow.

He's asked us to keep this confidential until the announcement tomorrow but has shared further detail (email below refers) regarding the position and implications for BBC operations in Wales.

Garmon is available to discuss this with the Cabinet Minister if required (**Redacted – Personal Information**).

If the Cabinet Minister is asked to comment on the announcement, suggestions on points to make are set out below:

- Aware of the significant financial challenges facing the BBC and the impact on the BBC's operations in Wales and our creative sector more broadly.
- Committed to working with the broadcaster to mitigate the impact on programming and services in Wales and to ensure continued investment in our independent production sector.
- In ongoing discussion with the BBC on this matter.
- Importance of Wales' voice in decisions that will affect the ongoing sustainability of the BBC and its future funding arrangements, including on BBC Charter Renewal.

Please let us know if the Cabinet Minister would like any additional information at this point or any formal lines to take drafted on this.

Diolch

Cofion gorau

[WG Official 1]

From: Garmon Rhys <**Redacted – Personal Information**>
Sent: 16 June 2026 16:32
To: **[WG Official 1]** (ECE - Creative Wales) <**Redacted – Personal Information** >

Cc: **[BBC Officer 2]** <**Redacted – Personal Information** >
Subject: Nodyn ynglyn a sefyllfa ariannol BBC Cymru

Annwyl **[WG Official 1]**,

Diolch am y sgwrs yn gynharach.

Yn gyfrinachol a ddim i'w rannu yn eang cyn y cyhoeddiad, rwyf wedi amlinellu isod y penawdau y byddwn yn ei rannu gyda staff am 1pm fory er mwyn caniatau i chi friffio y gweinidog. Dwi hefyd ar gael am sgwrs unrhywbryd cyn hynny:

Fel yr ydym eisoes wedi datgan ar lefel Brydeinig, mae'r BBC yn wynebu pwysau ariannol sylweddol o ganlyniad i gostau uwch a lleihad yn nifer y cartrefi sy'n talu ffi'r drwydded. Mae hyn yn golygu y bydd angen i ni arbed £500m a chau rhwng 1,800 a 2,000 o swyddi erbyn 2028/29.

Bydd cyhoeddiadau ar draws y BBC yfory yn rhannu mwy o wybodaeth ynglŷn â'r camau nesaf yn y broses arbedion.

Yn BBC Cymru, byddwn yn dweud wrth staff bod angen i ni arbed £9m erbyn 2027/28, gan gau tua 50 o swyddi.

Rydym yn rhagweld y bydd angen arbedion pellach yn 2028/29 wrth i'r pwysau ariannol ddwysáu.

Byddwn yn cyhoeddi cynlluniau manylach yn yr Hydref. I gynorthwyo'r broses o ddatblygu'r cynlluniau manwl, byddwn yn gwahodd ceisiadau am ddiswyddiadau gwirfoddol am gyfnod o fis, gan ddechrau yfory.

Mae'r her ariannol i BBC Cymru yn sylweddol, ac mae'n golygu y bydd rhaid i ni edrych ar ein gwariant ar draws ein holl wasanaethau ac adrannau, gan gynnwys Newyddion, Chwaraeon, Comisiynu teledu Saesneg, Radio Cymru, Radio Wales, ein darpariaeth rhaglenni i S4C, a Cherddorfa a Chorws Cenedlaethol Cymru y BBC. Byddwn hefyd yn adolygu ein holl wariant ar swyddogaethau sy'n cefnogi ein cynnwys.

Fersiwn Saesneg:
As we have already set out at a UK-wide level, the BBC is facing significant financial pressures as a result of higher costs and a decline in the number of households paying the licence fee. This means that we will need to deliver savings of £500m and close between 1,800 and 2,000 roles by 2028/29.

Announcements across the BBC tomorrow will provide further information on the next steps in the savings process.

At BBC Wales, we will inform staff that we need to deliver savings of £9m by 2027/28, with around 50 roles closing.

We anticipate that further savings will be required in 2028/29 as financial pressures intensify.

We will publish more detailed plans in the autumn. To support the development of these plans, we will invite applications for voluntary redundancy for a period of one month, starting tomorrow.

The financial challenge facing BBC Wales is significant, and it means that we will need to review our spending across all our services and departments, including News, Sport, English-language television commissioning, Radio Cymru, Radio Wales, our programme provision for S4C, and the BBC National Orchestra and Chorus of Wales.

We will also review all spending on functions that support our content.

Diolch,

Garmon Rhys
Cyfarwyddwr Dros Dro BBC Cymru Wales | Interim Director of BBC Cymru Wales

BBC CYMRU WALES

Ysgrifennwch ataf yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg
Please write to me in Welsh or English

From: PS Trefnydd, Chief Whip and Cabinet Minister for Culture and Sport/YP Trefnydd, Prif Chwip a Gweinidog Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chwaraeon
Sent: 17 June 2026 16:01
To: PS Trefnydd, Chief Whip and Cabinet Minister for Culture and Sport/YP Trefnydd, Prif Chwip a Gweinidog Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chwaraeon
Subject: OFFSEN - NOTE: 18:20 16/06/26 TCWCMCS meeting with Garmon Rhys, Interim Director BBC Wales

Hi all – for info, please find attached my note of the Minister's meeting with Garmon Rhys from the BBC. Sharing this for PO info only as the note contains commercially sensitive information.

Attendees:

- TCWCMCS
- Garmon Rhys (Interim Director BBC Wales)
- **[WG Official 1]**
- **[WG Official 2]**

Note:

Garmon outlined that current pressures are driven by a combination of factors: a declining licence fee model (with 94% consuming content but fewer paying), inflationary pressures, and increased competition, particularly from streaming platforms. While these challenges have previously been managed through commercial activity, this is no longer sustainable, and the BBC must deliver around £500m in savings.

BBC-wide announcements are scheduled for tomorrow (Director General message at 09:30, further details at 13:00). In BBC Wales, there will be no specific role announcements immediately, but a voluntary redundancy scheme will be launched, with an indicative reduction of around 50 roles and a requirement to deliver £9m savings from an £84m budget. Garmon noted that reductions are becoming increasingly difficult as options narrow.

These changes will require reviewing all services, including reductions in commissioned content and news story volumes, alongside greater cross-BBC working. There will be a focus on protecting core audience services while maintaining investment in growth areas such as YouTube.

The Minister acknowledged the challenges and emphasised the importance of continued collaboration with Creative Wales, particularly to protect Welsh-language content. She stressed the need to maintain strong dialogue and confirmed she will make the case to the UK Government for Welsh Government involvement in Charter renewal. She also highlighted her wider vision for arts and culture, noting the importance of the BBC National Orchestra of Wales in supporting jobs and the sector.

Garmon noted that BBC Wales hosts the only professional orchestra in Wales and emphasised the value of its relationship with Creative Wales. Despite financial pressures, he highlighted that the current TV commissioning slate for the year ahead remains strong.

The Minister noted that Creative Wales sits within Adam Price's portfolio and asked that he be kept informed (**[WG Official 1]** to ensure this – **action completed**). She thanked BBC Wales for the engagement and emphasised the importance of joint working.

In closing, Garmon reiterated that current challenges underscore the unsustainability of the licence fee model and bring Charter renewal into sharper focus. The Minister reaffirmed her commitment to ongoing partnership and dialogue and her support for the future of public service broadcasting.

ACTION – in a pre-meet with [WG Official 1] prior to the meeting, the Minister asked that in her upcoming letter to the SoS for Culture, Media and Sport a request for WG to be involved in the BBC charter renewal process in included. [WG Official 1] followed up after the meeting and said this is being taken forward and a draft of the letter will be with the Minister to consider by the end of the week.

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

[WG Official 2]
Ysgrifennydd Preifat i Heledd Fychan AS **|** Private Secretary to Heledd Fychan MS
Trefnydd, Prif Chwip a Gweinidog Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chwaraeon **|**
Trefnydd, Chief Whip and Cabinet Minister for Culture and Sport