

# Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

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Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee Room 2 – Senedd	Steve George
Meeting date: 14 December 2017	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.30	0300 200 6565
	<a href="mailto:SeneddCWLC@assembly.wales">SeneddCWLC@assembly.wales</a>

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## 1 Introductions, Apologies and Substitutions – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

## 2 S4C: Scrutiny of Annual Report and Accounts

(09:30 – 10:30)

(Pages 1 – 9)

Huw Jones, Chair, S4C

Owen Evans, Chief Executive, S4C

Phil Williams, Secretary, S4C

[Annual Report & Statement of Accounts for the 12 month period to 31 March 2017](#)

## 3 National Library of Wales: General Scrutiny

(10:30 – 11:30)

(Pages 10 – 19)

Rhodri Glyn Thomas, President

Linda Tomos, Chief Executive and Librarian

Pedr ap Llwyd, Deputy Chief Executive and Librarian (Collections and Public Programmes)

## 4 Papers to note

### 4.1 Historic Environment: Additional Evidence

(Pages 20 – 22)



- 4.2 Correspondence from the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language:  
Welsh Language Standards**  
(Page 23)
- 4.3 Correspondence from Cabinet Secretary for Finance**  
(Page 24)
- 5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the  
public from Item 6 & 7 and the meeting on 10 January 2018**
- 6 Consideration of Evidence**  
(11:30 – 11:45)
- 7 Consideration of Forward Work Programme**  
(11:45 – 12:00) (Pages 25 – 35)

# Agenda Item 2

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# Agenda Item 3

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7<sup>th</sup> December 2017

### The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee's Inquiry into the Historic Environment 2017

#### Response of Addoldai Cymru

Thank you for permitting Addoldai Cymru to make a late response to the above consultation.

Addoldai Cymru (the Welsh Religious Buildings Trust) is a charity brought into being by Cadw and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action in 1999 in response to the alarming scale of redundancy amongst Wales' historic places of worship.

Its principal remit is to take into care a selection of redundant non-Church in Wales religious buildings that are historically and/or architecturally significant. In practice, the Trust's focus is on Wales' rich heritage of Nonconformist chapels, and on their value to their local communities. The Trust undertakes any necessary repairs to its acquired buildings, and endeavours to make them available for appropriate community use. The Trust currently owns eight chapels (7 freehold and 1 leasehold), representing a variety of denominations across Wales. The Friends of Friendless Churches, meanwhile, has a remit for redundant churches belonging to the Church in Wales.

The Trust's secondary remit is to act as an advisory body for active congregations and to raise awareness and appreciation of Wales' Nonconformist heritage and the story of chapel building.

The Trust is dependent on a variety of sources for its funding. From the outset, the Trust has received an annual grant from Cadw (core funding) towards its running costs, including insurance and basic maintenance of its portfolio of buildings. In the past, grant aid to support capital works and projects has also been received from a variety of sources including other Welsh and UK Government departments, various local authorities, the national lottery, and numerous grant-making trusts and bodies, as well as donations from businesses and private individuals. The Trust faces a worrying future as external funding is becoming reduced, whilst the rate of redundancy of chapels is accelerating.

The Trust wishes to comment on certain aspects of the consultation as follows:

#### Implementation of the Historic Environment Act.

We are appreciative of the ongoing implementation of the Act and welcome the guidance documents published to date, which will provide some help to users of religious buildings in terms of their conservation and management of change. We hope to see specific guidance on understanding the significance of historic places of worship, and on asset management, options appraisals, and disposal of redundant religious buildings, as promised in the Strategic Action Plan for Historic Places of Worship in Wales. There is a need for consistent guidance both for professionals and for those caring for historic buildings.

We also wish to highlight the problem of capacity within the professional sector across Wales. Few local authorities now have qualified building conservation staff, which for the Trust is evidenced in the lack of knowledge of chapel architecture and its history amongst planning department staff. We feel that Cadw is best placed to ensure that these gaps are filled, and we support Cadw in its initiatives to share resources across Wales. With the raft of new legislation and guidance, it is hoped that these initiatives will result in an appropriately consistent and streamlined approach by the public sector.

Protection of listed buildings and assets at risk.

The Trust welcomes the increased enforcement powers afforded to local planning authorities, even if we, as owners of vulnerable buildings at a time of austerity, are at high risk of being at the sharp end of such powers.

Many of Wales' listed places of worship are at risk and their future sustainability is dependent upon the efforts of dedicated volunteers. There is an urgent need for a training and capacity building programme for church and chapel volunteers. Addoldai Cymru itself is actively pursuing its concept of Associate Status whereby we will endeavour to build a relationship with the current congregations and owners of significant chapel buildings, offering a range of facilities, support and advice, in order to assist the continuation in use of the buildings by the congregations.

There is a need to address in more detail the process of redundancy and the options available to congregations including the assistance of relevant bodies, notably Addoldai Cymru. At present the disposal of redundant chapel buildings is chaotic, with chapels going to the market before the Trust is able to start a dialogue re potential acquisition. This difficulty is most pronounced with non-centralised denominations such as the Independents. A much smoother path is needed to avoid stripping of assets prior to formal redundancy and to highlight other options beyond that of the open market.

Facilitating collaboration within the sector.

The Trust welcomed Cadw's initiative which led to the publication of the Strategic Action Plan for Historic Places of Worship in Wales, and it supports most of its ambitious proposals. One major output has been the establishment of the Welsh Places of Worship Forum, of which Addoldai Cymru is pleased to be a member. The Forum does, however, face the challenge of being relevant to the denominations and without adequate resourcing and clear successes, there is a danger of it losing momentum.

In pursuance of its Associate Status project, the Trust has undertaken detailed work, using rigorous criteria, to identify what it considers to be Wales' most significant chapel buildings. This work has been done in collaboration with the RCAHMMW, who assisted in the creation of the Trust's website, which itself houses the RCAHMMW's Chapels Database. The Trust is in the process of sharing its conclusions with the denominations, in the spirit of the Strategic Action Plan, which exemplifies the benefits of coordinated activity.

Maximising the value of heritage tourism and Cadw's work to meet income generation targets.

The Trust is well placed to engage in heritage tourism, since all of our chapels are of high historical/architectural merit, and most lie within areas that are popular with tourists or have the potential of being so. Faith tourism and pilgrimage trails are a growing tourism vehicle, and the Trust has already published a tourist guide to Wales' Unitarian meeting houses, featuring two of its own buildings. Despite being synonymous with Wales' unique cultural heritage, particularly in relation to the Welsh language, Nonconformist chapels have to date not featured strongly in

Wales' tourism offer, when compared with its castles and industrial monuments. The Trust would welcome any initiative to rectify this.

The Trust is concerned at the ongoing prominence given to Cadw's income generation targets. Whilst this undoubtedly assists the Welsh Government's balance sheet, more emphasis needs to be placed upon Cadw's rather more important role of protecting and championing the entire historic environment of Wales, regardless of ownership or status. It is ironic that the enhanced income from visitors to Cadw's protected monuments is celebrated at the very time that Cadw's grants to the thousands of historic buildings elsewhere in Wales have been suspended. Assembly members are urged to ensure that Cadw's grant schemes are restored and properly resourced.

It is important to recognise that visitor experience is as much dependent on enjoyment of the everyday historic environment as on a handful of iconic monuments. A nation's historic buildings provide a sense of place and identity for local communities and equally for visitors. However, tourism is only one ingredient of the heritage economy, whose management and maintenance relies on skills and supplies in the conservation/ construction sector, and on adequate financial resources.

David Lloyd  
Chair, Addoldai Cymru



Ein cyf/Our ref MA-L/EM/0750/17

Bethan Jenkins AM  
Chair  
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

4 December 2017

Dear Bethan,

Thank you for your letter dated 1 November regarding Welsh Language Standards to the then Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language.

I am committed to the standards system and keen to see bodies moving from the previous Welsh Language Schemes system to the standards system so that there is a stronger legal framework in place for the language. My predecessor committed to introduce regulations to make standards applicable to health sector bodies before the end of the year. Whilst I agree with the Welsh Language Commissioner that imposing standards in health sector bodies is a priority, I need to ensure that I am satisfied with the standards that have been prepared before laying them.

The consultation on the White Paper '*Striking the right balance: proposals for a Welsh Language Bill*' over the summer included proposals for a revised model of standards. I am currently considering the responses to the White Paper and will provide a further update in due course.

Yours sincerely

**Eluned Morgan AC/AM**  
Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes  
Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning

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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.



# Agenda Item 4.3

Mark Drakeford AM/AC  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref

Simon Thomas AM  
Chair  
Finance Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
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4 December 2017

Dear Simon

Further to my letter dated 22 November, I enclose a copy of the restated draft Budget 2018-19 Main Expenditure Group (MEG) BEL tables reflecting the new portfolio structures. The tables will be available from the following link on the Welsh Government's website from 2pm today.

<http://gov.wales/funding/budget/draft-budget-2018-19/?lang=en>

As I stated previously this is a purely administrative exercise to regularise changes to the new structures and Ministerial portfolios.

I am copying this letter to the Chairs of the policy committees.

**Mark Drakeford AM/AC**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid  
Cabinet Secretary for Finance

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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.

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# Agenda Item 7

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