

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM

Deputy Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport

Welsh Government

30 April 2019

Dear Dafydd,

I am copying to you the [exchange of letters](#) between myself and Rhodri Talfan Davies regarding the BBC's proposal to request that Ofcom remove the requirement for 100% speech content for radio stations between 07.30 and 08.30 on weekdays.

I feel that any change to the requirement for 100% speech content in this early morning slot would be a step backwards. Listeners in Wales tune into BBC Radio broadcasts in greater numbers than in any other UK nation. They should expect to hear a discussion of the political and current events which shape their lives.

I am not convinced of the BBC's argument that their request to Ofcom is intended 'to give individual radio station right across the UK the flexibility at breakfast to respond to changing patterns of listening'. The BBC has said that 'there is no plan for BBC Radio Wales or BBC Radio Cymru to change their current news focus in peak'. However, once the requirement for 100% speech content is removed for this slot it will result in a loss of a protected time in radio broadcasting dedicated to information and discussion rather than entertainment.

Please can you let me know if the Welsh Government has had any communication with BBC Wales or Ofcom on this matter? Can I have your reassurance that the Welsh Government also opposes this request to Ofcom by BBC Wales? I am sure you will agree that any reduction of speech content

in this slot would deprive the people of Wales of an important means of understanding the decisions which have the most impact on their lives.

Please could you respond to me by 29 May so that I can inform our stakeholders of the Welsh Government's position on this issue,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bethan Sayed".

Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee