

P-06-1223 Prepare a bid for Wales to compete in the Eurovision Song Contest

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau | 29 Tachwedd 2020
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Reference: SR21/1251-7

Petition Number: P-06-1223

Petition title: Prepare a bid for Wales to compete in the Eurovision Song Contest

Text of petition: Wales is known around the world as “The Land of Song”, and we have a rich culture of music and performance which is recognised and celebrated internationally. Wales should have the opportunity to be represented at Eurovision as a nation in its own right. Therefore, we call on the Welsh Government to work with S4C and other relevant bodies to prepare a bid for Wales to compete in the Eurovision Song Contest.



1. Background

The Eurovision Song Contest website explains:

All entries to the Eurovision Song Contest are selected by the Participating Broadcasters. These are the Member Broadcasters of the EBU that take part in the Eurovision Song Contest.

The membership list of the EBU (European Broadcasting Union) is available on the EBU website. Members from the UK are the BBC, S4C, ITV and STV. The BBC is the UK's Participating Broadcaster, and so runs the process of selecting the UK entry to the contest.

Welsh entries have been submitted by S4C in the Junior Eurovision Song Contest as the BBC does not participate in that competition.

2. Welsh Parliament action

In 2019 the previous Senedd's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee held an inquiry into the live music industry. This included the recommendation that:

The Welsh Government, in collaboration with the industry and other stakeholders, should develop a music strategy. This should include a clear approach and brand for presenting music from Wales outside of Wales.

The Welsh Government accepted this recommendation, saying:

Creative Wales will be developing a pan-Wales "Action plan" rather than "Strategy" for the Commercial Music Industry in Wales. It will reflect the need for both short term actions required to assist the sector to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and longer term plans for developing the sector for a sustainable future, in a global market. The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented earlier development of this plan, but the Music Stakeholder Group has already been formed with the intention of providing advice, ideas and highlight priority issues for the Music sector as a whole. This stakeholder group has been invaluable in helping the Welsh Government to understand how the pandemic is affecting businesses and how we can better support the industry to recover and

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grow. We will develop an approach to supporting the brand internationally via the action plan.

3. Welsh Government action

The Welsh Government response to this petition explains:

Creative Wales, as the Welsh Government's internal body which champions the creative industries in Wales including the music sector which is a key priority area, is in the process of developing an industry-led action plan for commercial music and will discuss with the sector the possibility of Wales competing should the situation with the BBC ever change.

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in this briefing is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.