



30.11.2020

The Rt Hon Oliver Dowden CBE MP  
Secretary of State Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport  
100 Parliament Street  
London  
SW1A 2BQ

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Dear Oliver

### **Preparations for 2022 Licence Fee Settlement**

Thank you for your letter of 10 November 2020 regarding the timing and scope of the next Licence Fee settlement. Your letter sets out clearly the process and information required, and we look forward to working with you and your officials over the coming months in preparation for the settlement.

For the first time in S4C's history, our public funding will be provided entirely through the Licence Fee from 2022 onwards. Your decision to require a separate submission from S4C is very welcome and we agree that this is an opportunity to consider how we continue to target our resources in the most effective way in order to provide compelling content to our audience across a range of platforms. We have already begun the exciting work of considering our future purpose as a Public Service Media organisation and asking the questions as to what services we should deliver in the future, to whom and how.

As you rightly point out, S4C as the only national Welsh language broadcaster occupies a unique position in the UK broadcasting landscape. In the words of the Chancellor of the Exchequer back in March 2020 "S4C has become an integral part of the fabric of Welsh culture." We are the only full time Wales based broadcasting service and a driving force in promoting the Welsh language and culture, not only in Wales but across the UK and beyond. Your letter also notes S4C's vital economic impact and we are incredibly proud that our investment creates jobs in companies and the production chain across Wales, including some of the UK's most disadvantaged communities. During these challenging economic times we believe S4C has an even more important part to play in spreading prosperity to regions and communities across Wales.

The value of public service media and the vital role it plays in society has been reinforced during the current Covid-19 lockdown. We believe the way S4C has responded further underlines the importance of sufficient public funding in future years. This will enable us to continue the transition from the linear TV channel created nearly 40 years ago to a service which commissions and distributes compelling content on a wide variety of platforms and is able to compete with larger UK wide PSBs.

We look forward to setting out S4C's exciting future vision for your consideration in February 2021, and to subsequent discussions thereafter.

This letter is copied to the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Minister of State for Media and Data and your Permanent Secretary.

Yours sincerely



Rhodri Williams  
Chairman



Owen Evans  
Chief Executive

Mae croeso i chi gysylltu ag S4C yn y Gymraeg, ac os byddwch chi'n gwneud hynny byddwn yn ateb yn y Gymraeg ac ni fydd oedi oherwydd hynny.  
You are welcome to contact S4C in Welsh, and if you do so we will respond in Welsh and this will not lead to any delays.

**Sianel Pedwar Cymru**

**Canolfan S4C Yr Egin, Caerfyrddin Carmarthen, Cymru Wales, SA31 3EQ Ffôn Phone 03305 880 402 [s4c@s4c.cymru](mailto:s4c@s4c.cymru)  
s4c.cymru**