

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

The Senedd Commission

and

The Welsh Ministers

This agreement is dated 18 February 2026

Parties

- (1) The Senedd Commission (**Commission**)
- (2) The Welsh Ministers (**Welsh Ministers**)

1. Background

- 1.1 The Commission is the corporate body for Senedd Cymru.
- 1.2 The Welsh Ministers are members of the Welsh Government (**WG**) which is the devolved government for Wales. Where appropriate, references within this MoU to officials are to officials of the Welsh Government.
- 1.3 The Commission is the corporate body responsible for running the Welsh Youth Parliament (**WYP**) which was established in 2018.
- 1.4 The parties, supported by the leaders of each organisation, namely the Llywydd for the Commission and the First Minister for Wales (one of the Welsh Ministers), wish to formalise and record the basis on which they will collaborate with each other to support the WYP. This Memorandum of Understanding (**MoU**) sets out:
 - (a) the shared aims and actions for supporting the WYP.
 - (b) the principles of collaboration; and

- (c) the respective roles and responsibilities the parties will have in relation to the WYP.

2. Shared aims and actions for supporting the WYP

2.1 The WG and the Commission both share a strong commitment to the importance of listening to the voices of children and young people and taking their views meaningfully into account. Article 12 of United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child sets out the right of children to have a say in matters that affect them. Article 13 provides for access to information relevant to their rights.

2.2 The parties shall work together to achieve the shared aims set out below:

Aim	Actions
1. To ensure the role of the WYP in different policy areas is clearly visible and understood by the Welsh Ministers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify a central point of contact within WG to ensure Commission staff can communicate regarding the WYP with the correct WG officials exchanging relevant information at key times. • Establish subsequent liaison regarding the WYP between Commission staff and relevant WG policy officials to provide timescales and emerging themes for the three WYP committees. • Allow for Commission staff to discuss topics with lead policy teams to inform the focus of the WYP work. • Explore opportunities for the WYP Committee findings to support relevant policy development linked to their three priority areas. • Where of value and where capacity allows, WG policy officials may be

	<p>invited to attend WYP committee meetings to provide technical and factual briefings with the aim of informing committee members on issues related to their work.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission staff to provide Welsh Ministers and WG officials with information on the role of the WYP, this MoU and ways of working with Commission staff in relation to the WYP.
<p>2. To develop a mutually respectful working relationship between the WYP and the WG, resulting in meaningful collaboration for the purpose of this MoU.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commission staff to provide advanced embargoed copies of WYP committee reports to Welsh Ministers and WG officials. Neither the Commission nor WG will place those reports in the public domain before they are published. • Commission staff to invite the appropriate Welsh Minister to attend WYP Plenary meetings in support of Article 12 of the UNCRC and the Welsh Ministers' commitment to meaningful engagement with children and young people. WG undertakes to seek to secure the attendance of that Minister or an appropriate Deputy. • Commission staff to share possible areas of questioning (as agreed by WYP Members) with WG ahead of Plenary meetings where possible and appropriate.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG to respond to WYP committee reports and recommendations within 30 working days from when the WYP writes to the Minister’s office following the report launch and Plenary meeting; although 40 working days may be required for responses that cut across different Welsh Minister portfolios and contributions are required across WG.
<p>3. To ensure correspondence between WYP and WG is clear and understandable. WYP Members should be able to understand how their work has been considered and influenced in WGs policy development in their priority policy areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WG responses to WYP reports to be written in a manner that makes them accessible to children and young people. • Commission staff to publish WG responses to WYP reports on the WYP website.

3. Principles of collaboration

- 3.1 Both parties will adhere to statutory requirements and best practice. This includes compliance with applicable laws and standards relating, but not limited, to procurement, safeguarding, data protection and access to information.
- 3.2 Both parties agree that neither the Welsh Ministers nor WG officials will have any direct contact with WYP Members in any form whatsoever unless it is in the physical or virtual presence of a member of the Commission’s staff. Where any virtual contact is to take place, all attendees must be identifiable.
- 3.3 Any data, research, and documentation shared between both parties will not contain any confidential information
- 3.4 Both parties agree that, in the ordinary course of their collaboration under this MoU, the sharing of personal data between them will not generally be required. However, it is acknowledged that there may be circumstances where it is necessary

for the WG to process some personal data relating to that collaboration, for example in order to effectively engage with WYP Members as referenced in clause 3.2. In these circumstances, both parties shall ensure that data processing is limited to what is necessary and carried out in accordance with data protection law and principles.

4. Escalation

If either party has any issues, concerns or complaints about any matter in this MoU, that party shall notify the other party and the parties shall then seek to resolve the issue by a process of consultation. Resolution will normally be sought between WG officials and Commission staff. If this is not possible, it may be referred through those responsible for the management of this MoU, up to and including senior officials and staff from both parties. If a mutually satisfactory resolution is not reached within a reasonable period of time by senior officials and staff from both parties, the issue will be referred to the First Minister for Wales for WG and the Llywydd for the Commission who will then jointly be responsible for ensuring a mutually satisfactory resolution.

5. Intellectual property

5.1 The parties intend that any intellectual property rights (i) supplied by a party for use in relation to the WYP shall remain the property of that party; and (ii) created on behalf of a party in relation to the WYP shall vest in the party whose employee created them.

5.2 Where any intellectual property right vests in either party in accordance with the intention set out in clause 5.1 above, that party shall grant a non-exclusive, royalty-free, irrevocable licence to the other party to use that intellectual property for the purposes of the WYP.

5.3 To the extent that any intellectual property rights provided by either party for use in relation to the WYP may belong to a third party, the party supplying those intellectual property rights shall be responsible for ensuring that all appropriate licences and permissions have been obtained in order to enable the parties to use those third party intellectual property rights for the purposes of the WYP.

6. Term and termination

6.1 This MoU commences on the date of signature by both parties, and expires at the end of either each WYP term or each Senedd term whichever is sooner.

Arrangements for renewal of this MoU and any required amendments for future agreements will be discussed at this point.

- 6.2 Outside of the conditions in 6.1, either party may terminate this MoU by giving at least three months' notice in writing to the other party at any time.

7. Variation

This MoU, including the Annexes, may only be varied by written agreement of the parties.

8. Charges and liabilities

- 8.1 Except as otherwise provided, the parties shall each bear their own costs and expenses incurred in complying with their obligations under this MoU.
- 8.2 Both parties shall remain liable for any losses or liabilities incurred due to their own or their employee's actions and neither party intends that the other party shall be liable for any loss it suffers as a result of this MoU.

9. Status

- 9.1 This MoU is not intended to be legally binding, and no legal obligations or legal rights shall arise between the parties from this MoU. However, the parties enter into the MoU intending to honour all their obligations.
- 9.2 Nothing in this MoU is intended to, or shall be deemed to, establish any partnership or joint venture between the parties, constitute either party as the agent of the other party, nor authorise either of the parties to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of the other party.

10. Governing law and jurisdiction

This MoU shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the law of England and Wales as it applies in Wales and, without affecting the escalation procedure set out in clause 4, each party agrees to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England and Wales.

Signed for and on behalf of the Senedd
Commission

Signature:



Name:

ELIN JONES MS

Position:

Llywydd

Date:

18 February 2026

Signed on behalf of the Welsh Ministers

Signature:



Name:

ELUNED MORGAN MS

Position:

FIRST MINISTER OF WALES

Date:

18 February 2026

CONTACT POINTS

The Commission

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The Welsh Government

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