

Rt Hon Sir Keir Starmer KCB, KC
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1A 2AA

Your ref:
My ref: CC/MB
Date: 16 July 2024

Dear Prime Minister,

Representation of Cornwall on the Council of Nations and Regions

As the five Group Leaders representing all 87 members of Cornwall Council, we are writing to you with a request that Cornwall is invited to join the new Council of Nations and Regions.

The rationale for this request is based on the fact that, like the Welsh, Scottish and Irish, the Cornish people and the language are recognised and protected by virtue of two Council of Europe treaties.

The first of those is the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities and the second being the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This legal recognition defines Cornwall as a nation by virtue of having a distinct language, history, ethnicity, culture, society and territory.

As such, both treaties compel the UK Government, as founding members of the Council of Europe since 1949, to take measures to promote our economic, social, political and cultural life, in order to give full and effective equality between the Cornish as a national minority and those belonging to the majority. Inviting representation from Cornwall on the Council of Nations and Regions would fulfil this obligation.

Indeed, when the Cornish were recognised as a national minority, the UK Government stated that *“the decision to recognise the unique identity of the Cornish, now affords them the same status as the UK’s other Celtic people; the Scots, the Welsh and the Irish.”*

Inviting representation from Cornwall on the Council of Nations and Regions would signal the Government’s intentions to honour this obligation and the two Council of Europe treaties in respect of the Cornish.

Furthermore, as stated in your *Change* manifesto, given the remit of Council of Nations and Regions is to *“drive economic growth in all parts of the country”*, Cornwall’s economic credentials and potential add further weight to our inclusion.

As was the case during the first industrial revolution, Cornwall is once again central to a more sustainable United Kingdom. On this occasion, Cornwall is ideally positioned to lead a 'green industrial revolution' as the centrepiece of your Green Prosperity Plan and deliver on your mission to 'make Britain a clean energy superpower'.

In conclusion, for all the compelling reasons set out above, we are firmly of the view that Cornwall warrants self-representation on the Council and acceding to this request would fulfil your *Change* manifesto commitment to "ensure representation on the Council from all nations and regions".

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Linda Taylor
Leader of the Council
Leader of the Conservative Group



Councillor Loic Rich
Leader of the Independent Group



Councillor Colin Martin
Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group



Councillor Dick Cole
Leader of the Mebyon Kernow / Green Group



Councillor Kate Ewert MP
Interim Leader of the Labour Group

CC:

The Rt Hon Angela Raynor, Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government

Cornwall MP's – Andrew George MP, Jayne Kirkham MP, Perran Moon MP, Noah Law MP, Ben Maguire MP, Anna Gelderd MP

Lord Teverson and Lord Hutton