

**Cadeirydd y Cyngor**  
**Chairman of the Council**  
Y Cynghorydd / Councillor Simon Glyn



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The Right Hon. Kwasi Kwarteng, MP  
Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy  
1 Victoria Street  
London. SW1H 0ET

17 November, 2021

Dear Mr Kwarteng,

I wish to draw your attention to the following motion which was unanimously adopted at a recent meeting of Gwynedd Council:-

**“RESOLVED:-**

- 1. That the Council asks the Cabinet to consider officially recognising St David’s Day by giving a day’s leave to its workforce in order to celebrate our Patron Saint’s Day on 1 March 2022 and every year thereafter.**
- 2. That the Council calls on Westminster Government to devolve to Welsh Government the power to create bank holidays for Wales (via the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971) - in the same manner as already happens in Scotland and Northern Ireland.”**

The proposer set out the context to his motion by tracing the history of St David, patron saint of Wales, and his significance to the Welsh people, and also emphasised that the motion served to reclaim an element of self-respect in terms of our separateness and identity as a nation.

Some of the comments made during the discussion included:-

- Agreement with the principle, and support for the call to establish St David’s Day as a bank holiday in Wales.
- That it was scandalous and an embarrassment that powers to create bank holidays have been granted to the Governments of both Scotland and Northern Ireland, but not to the Welsh Government.
- That it has been an affront to the Welsh people for centuries that, as a country, we do not have the power to celebrate our patron saint’s day. The cost is always put forward as an argument, but a bank holiday is a great boost for the economy of rural areas.
- That we, and anyone who lives in Wales, has a duty to support our patron saint, regardless of background and tradition.

I look forward to receiving your response to this motion so that I can report back to the forthcoming meeting of the Council.

Yours sincerely,

**Councillor Simon Glyn**  
**Council Chairman**