

Welsh Headlines — 02 Sep 2026

???????? Welsh News Headlines — 2 September 2026

? Top Story: FM warns Welsh Government budget will shrink in real terms

First Minister **Rhun ap Iorwerth** will today (Wednesday) warn that the Welsh Government will have less money to spend in real terms next year than this year, as he publishes his administration's **First 100 Days Progress Report**. Speaking at a press conference this morning, he will vow that financial pressures "will not dim this new administration's ambition to improve outcomes for the people of Wales", and argue that fiscal challenges make the case for "fairer funding" from Westminster "even more of a pressing matter" — a case he will put directly to the Prime Minister when the pair meet in October. The progress report confirms all initial planned activity on each of the government's 96 commitments has now been completed. The FM is also expected to discuss the launch of the new Programme for Government, closer cooperation with the Scottish Government, and an update on the upcoming Wildfires and Resilience Summit. The warning lands ahead of the Senedd's return, after July's failed supplementary budget left Labour and Plaid negotiating a budget deal.

📄 GOV.WALES press release (embargoed 1 Sep 23:00) / Nation.Cymru — 1 Sep

?? Politics & Senedd

Farage's £5m donor has huge stake in company with major Welsh presence. Investigative reporting (Martin Shipton) reveals **Christopher Harborne** — the Thailand-based billionaire behind around two-thirds of Reform UK's funding, who also gave Nigel Farage a separate £5m gift now being investigated by the parliamentary standards watchdog — holds a stake of around 15% in

defence firm **QinetiQ**, reportedly worth about £400m, making him its largest shareholder. QinetiQ operates the MoD's **Aberporth** facility in Ceredigion (drones and unmanned systems tested over a ~6,500 sq km danger area of Cardigan Bay) and **MOD Pendine** in Carmarthenshire. Anti-war campaigners say the revelations are "particularly awkward" as the Welsh Government pursues expansion of the arms industry; West Wales residents' groups say QinetiQ has been issued "at least nine licences" to sell weapons technology to Israel and claim local economic promises "have not led to any noticeable benefit locally". Protests are planned as the **Defence Security Resilience Cymru summit** — dubbed "the Welsh Government arms fair" — opens at ICC Wales, Newport on Thursday (3 Sep, 8am), with more than 2,000 delegates and 60 exhibitors expected; a vigil is also due outside West Wales Airport on Friday 4 Sep at 1pm.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Martin Shipton) — 2 Sep*

Reform's Tice: being Wales' opposition is a "work in progress". Reform UK deputy leader **Richard Tice** told journalists ahead of the party's autumn conference (Birmingham, 3-5 Sep) that Reform — by far the largest opposition party in the new 96-seat Senedd with 34 seats — is "making a real difference" and "challenging the status quo". On policing devolution, he said the "key issue is the leadership and the common sense to keep the streets safe", not where powers lie — a softer line than Reform Wales leader **Dan Thomas**, who previously objected to devolving policing. Tice backed Thomas for next year's Welsh council elections, where Reform hopes to "win as much as possible".

☐ *BBC Wales (Shelley Phelps) — 1 Sep 17:40*

Calls renewed to release £340m ALN consequential. Wrexham Council has formally written to Finance Minister **Elin Jones** asking the Welsh Government to rethink its decision on **additional learning needs (ALN)** funding, arguing the £340m "consequential" passed from Westminster to match England's SEN debt write-off should be released to schools now. The council says Wrexham school budgets are in deficit for the first time, and school balances across Wales have fallen by £290m in five years (a 96% drop). The Welsh Government's proposed £120m three-year package stalled when the Senedd rejected the supplementary budget in July; Education Minister **Anna Brychan** says an announcement will come in the autumn.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Alec Doyle, LDR) — 2 Sep*

Former Tory MS Joel James bids to return to council. The ex-Senedd member for South Wales Central is one of five candidates in Thursday's **Llantwit Fardre by-election** (RCT), triggered by Conservative Sam Trask's resignation. James represented the ward from 2008-2022 before entering the Senedd; he faces Plaid Cymru's Danny Lyn Crudge, Reform UK's Lyndon Evans, Labour's Lloyd Watkins and independent Jonathan Bishop.

☐ *Nation.Cymru — 1 Sep*

MP warns over new passport rules for Wales-Ireland ferries. Ynys Môn MP **Llinos Medi** has written to the Home Secretary urging a delay to requirements — effective **28 September** — for all passengers on Irish Ferries' Dublin-Holyhead and Rosslare-Pembroke routes to present a valid passport or Irish passport card before boarding, with driving licences no longer accepted. She says

the short notice will hit elderly travellers without passports and businesses such as Teithiau Elfyn Thomas, which fears substantial losses on planned trips.

☐ *Nation.Cymru (Mark Mansfield) — 1 Sep*

? Health & Work

Transgender patients told surgery cancelled while already in hospital. New detail has emerged on the **Welsh Gender Service** pause announced last week: Cardiff and Vale health board's chief operating officer **Paul Bostock** confirmed "some patients were informed that their planned surgery would need to be paused while in hospital preparing". **Sion Jewell**, 29, of Anglesey, waited five years and had packed for hospital when told 24 hours beforehand — the second postponement for mental-health reasons. Sion said the surgery was needed "to feel right in my body", and warned: "If this was for any other operation... we would be celebrating right now." Investigative journalist **Nick Wallis** says FOI data shows the Welsh service referred adults at "three to four times the rate per head of population" than other UK clinics, figures the NHS Wales Joint Commissioning Committee says prompted "urgent clinical assurance work". Plaid MS **Matthew Jones** (Sir Fynwy Torfaen) called the pause a "succumbing to external pressure", Reform's **Dan Thomas** and shadow health minister **Natasha Asghar** welcomed it.

☐ *BBC Wales (David Deans) — 1 Sep 20:42; also Cymru Fyw*

Women posing as men to buy testosterone online. Consultant **Dr Michelle Oliver** (Aneurin Bevan menopause clinic) says women are lying to online pharmacies because NHS access to testosterone for post-menopausal symptoms varies wildly between Wales' seven health boards — some use "traffic light" systems where only specialists can prescribe. She has seen women with up to 12 times the safe level of the hormone, risking permanent side effects ("nobody wants to have baldness, deepening of the voice or enlargement of the clitoris"). There is no licensed female product on the NHS (Androfeme costs ~£100 vs £30 for male Testogel), and Dr Rebecca Tomlinson describes a "postcode lottery" where some practices ban prescribing outright. The Welsh Government says all boards must follow NICE guidance.

☐ *BBC Wales (Jenny Rees) — published 1 Sep, updated 2 Sep ~06:00; also Cymru Fyw*

Corridor care: why is it happening and can it stop? A Nation.Cymru analysis of new **Senedd Research** finds no Welsh hospital meets the four-hour or 12-hour A&E targets — in July just 49.9% of patients in major emergency departments were admitted, transferred or discharged within four hours — and Wales does not publish national corridor-care figures at all (an RCEM snapshot in early 2025 found all 12 major departments using corridors, with 13.5% of patients affected; England now publishes figures showing 4.8% of A&E attendances experienced corridor care in May-June 2026). RCEM estimates an average 18 deaths a week in 2025 were associated with waits of 12+ hours. The piece — drawing on Health Minister **Mabon ap Gwynfor's** warning that departments are "buckling under the strain" — says ending corridor care depends on discharge capacity, social care, and a £1.4bn maintenance backlog, with a new whole-system approach expected by 2030.

? Crime & Community

'Dangerous' paedophile jailed 21 years. Craig Henton, 54, of Port Talbot, was sentenced at Swansea Crown Court on Tuesday after admitting 18 offences including abuse of a child aged between three and five. The National Crime Agency tracked him via an encrypted messaging app where he said he had been a paedophile for 25 years and planned to abuse a five-year-old girl; 4,570 indecent images and videos were found on his devices, 918 in the most serious category. He received 21 years plus six on licence, an indefinite sexual harm prevention order and lifetime registration.

📰 *BBC Wales (Angharad Thomas) — 1 Sep*

Man jailed after fleeing into the sea to evade arrest. Gavin Bennett, 45, of Porthcawl, was jailed for three years and eight months at Cardiff Crown Court for attempting to engage in sexual communications with a child and sexually assaulting a woman. Police found him sending inappropriate messages to a girl he believed was under 16 in October 2025; when officers arrived he ran into the sea at Porthcawl seafront and had to be brought back to shore.

📰 *Nation.Cymru — 2 Sep*

Newport to renew antisocial behaviour crackdown at Market Arcade. The city council plans to renew a Public Spaces Protection Order covering the arcade linking High Street and Market Street, where gates installed in 2020 after complaints of graffiti, drug use and the area "being used as a toilet" have "eliminated" late-night problems. A new report says antisocial behaviour across the wider city centre has "increased in recent months", so the gates will stay locked overnight; the renewal goes to a two-week public consultation.

📰 *Nation.Cymru (Nicholas Thomas, LDR) — 2 Sep*

? Economy & Business

Cardiff marketing firm Orchard collapses — ~70 jobs lost. Communications agency **Orchard Media**, based on Trade Street near Cardiff Central station, is being wound up after blaming a "shrinking market and increasing competition". Founded in 2010 and employee-owned since 2024, it worked with S4C (filming *Tafwyl*), Menter Caerdydd, Netflix, *Dŵr Cymru*, Principality and Transport for Wales. Ex-employees and freelancers — some paid by a subcontractor that Orchard itself hasn't paid — say "big questions need asking" about how a company with £15m turnover two years ago went to the wall; staff say they had no warning until last week. Menter Caerdydd, a creditor, described the debt as "quite a blow". S4C says it has completed all payments owed to Orchard.

▯▯ *BBC Cymru Fyw — 1 Sep*

£7.5m unlocks more than 30 new homes in Carmarthenshire. The Development Bank of Wales is funding the next phases of two developments — £1.8m for Mentrus Developments' third phase at Maes y Teirw, Carmarthen (seven energy-efficient homes on a brownfield site) and £5.7m for Solitaire Homes' third phase at Priory Fields, St Clears (24 homes, seven affordable; 76 when complete). Since 2017 the bank says it has invested £306m to help build 2,304 homes.

▯▯ *Nation.Cymru (Mark Mansfield) — 2 Sep*

New 'landmark' home energy pilot rolls out in Cardiff. The **Tai Clyd Caerdydd** scheme launches today in Fairwater, Adamsdown and parts of Splott, offering whole-house assessments, vetted installers and help accessing funding — including fully funded improvements for households in fuel poverty. Delivered by Cardiff Council and the Welsh Government, it could expand across Cardiff and Wales if successful. Housing Minister **Siân Gwenllïan** called it "a landmark moment in our national mission to transform Wales's housing stock", pointing to the £17m she recently announced for home energy upgrades.

▯▯ *Nation.Cymru — 2 Sep*

New push to tackle construction skills shortage. The Construction Wales Innovation Centre (CWIC) at UWTSD has launched '**Codi Dyfodol Adeiladu**' (Build a Future in Construction) with rural partners including Menter Cymru Wledig and Ceredigion Council, promoting craft, technical and professional roles — architectural technology, construction management, quantity surveying — that schools often overlook. Pembrokeshire planning firm Harries Planning (Eglwysrwrw) is taking on degree apprentices to counter a rural recruitment crisis: "The old boys have come to the end of their lives and young people now look at a future that isn't in the countryside." The Federation of Master Builders warns the skills shortage is at crisis levels.

▯▯ *BBC Cymru Fyw (Garry Owen) — 2 Sep*

? Environment & Rural

"Tears every day for a year, but it gets easier" — widow speaks of slurry-tank tragedy. **Margaret Owen**, of Llanycil near Y Bala, is speaking publicly for the first time since her husband **Islwyn Owen** died on 4 September 2024 after falling into a slurry tank on the farm — the inquest recorded an accidental death after he climbed onto a low wall to reach machinery above the pit. Margaret found the tractor running with the slurry mixer raised; toxicology showed no methane, meaning he fell. "For over a year the tears came every day and I thought I'd be like this for ever, but it does get easier," she says. She notes recent farm tragedies — a father and son died near Northwich in late August — and that 22 farm workers died in Britain in 2025/26, the highest figure in a decade: "Things seem to be getting worse and worse." Four men have died within four miles of her home in recent years. She also recalls the pressure of slurry-spreading rules at the time of Islwyn's death — rules Agriculture Minister **Llyr Gruffydd** now wants to change.

? Culture & Entertainment

Casualty star to lead 40th anniversary special. William Beck, whose character Dylan Keogh has anchored the Cardiff-filmed BBC drama since 2011's move to Roath Lock Studios, leads a two-part 40th-anniversary special airing **5 September at 20:00** on BBC One — a "high-stakes major incident" at Holby City Hospital. Beck calls it "a real privilege... pinch-yourself stuff"; the show is expected to move to a new fictional hospital in Wales next year.

📺 BBC Wales (Danielle Herbert) — 1 Sep

Sir Tom Jones reduces The Voice judges to tears. The 85-year-old Pontypridd legend's rendition of Leonard Cohen's '**Tower of Song**' — a track he recorded on 2012's *Spirit in the Room* — left will.i.am struggling for words: "85 years of every experience you can think of is in this man's sponge of a soul." Jones told the panel the song "touches a nerve" with its reflections on ageing; viewers called the performance "a different level... STILL".

📺 Nation.Cymru — 1 Sep

Rob Brydon revives Islands in the Stream in Dolly tribute. The Gavin & Stacey star performed the Parton-Rogers classic with Irish singer **Sinéad Quinn** at CarFest (Silverstone), recreating Uncle Bryn's barn-dance moment with Nessa. Quinn said she "hasn't stopped crying me lamps out about Dolly". (*Dolly Parton's death and Welsh roots were covered 27-29 Aug.*)

📺 Nation.Cymru — 2 Sep

Al Lewis explores the Welsh roots of country music. The new BBC Radio Wales documentary *Al Lewis: The Welsh Roots of Country* (on BBC Sounds) investigates Welsh migrants' contribution to country and Americana — chapel and hymn-singing traditions carried to Appalachia — with a new single, 'Will the Circle Be Unbroken', recorded with Celyn Cartwright. A monthly country show, *Country with Al Lewis*, starts tonight (2 Sep) at 19:00 on BBC Radio Wales.

📺 Nation.Cymru — 2 Sep

Lane7 to open in Cardiff. The UK's largest independent boutique bowling chain opens at the former Par 59 site on St Mary Street on **18 September** — six bowling lanes, Tech Shuffleboard, Big Putts Golf, karaoke rooms, beer pong and interactive darts, with free "Baller Week" bowling for groups of up to four between 18-24 September.

📺 Nation.Cymru — 2 Sep

Two Welsh beaches among UK's best 'hidden' gems. Which? travel experts named **Fairbourne Beach** (Gwynedd) — reached by ferry and the narrow-gauge Fairbourne Railway, "like something out of a picture book" — and **Marloes Sands** (Pembrokeshire), "the perfect British

beach... it's not under-rated at all, but it is hidden", among six lesser-known coastal favourites.

Nation.Cymru — 1 Sep

? Sport

Swansea go top of the Championship with 2-0 win over Watford. First-half goals from **Adam Idah** and **Eom Ji-sung** (Idah teeing up both) made it 10 points from four games as Swansea leapfrogged Charlton and Wolves — top of the second tier for the first time since October 2019. Before kick-off the club paid tribute to former manager **Kenny Jackett**, who died in June aged 64; his family attended. Boss **Vitor Matos** downplayed the summit: "It doesn't mean nothing at the moment... we just need to rest and start thinking about Wrexham." **Jeremy Monga's** season-long loan from Manchester City is agreed with all paperwork completed before the deadline, and will be announced today — this after the exits of Ronald (to Millwall, £2m) and Zeidane Inoussa (Portsmouth loan) collapsed on deadline day. Striker **Zan Vipotnik** remains for now but could still leave with Portuguese, Turkish and Saudi markets open.

Nation.Cymru / PA (Phil Blanche) — 1 Sep; BBC Sport Wales — 2 Sep

Wrexham seal £6.5m signing of Callum O'Hare. The attacking midfielder joined from Sheffield United on deadline day on a three-year deal (with a one-year option) after a medical — Wrexham's seventh signing of the summer and second of deadline day after centre-back **Joe Worrall** from Burnley. Blades boss Chris Wilder had accused Wrexham of "blanket bombing" the market: "Wrexham are in for half the division." Meanwhile **Conor Coady**, whose Wrexham contract was terminated by mutual consent, is training and coaching with **Liverpool's under-21s** as a free agent — he told BBC Radio 5 Live he's "not massively in a rush because I want to make sure it's right". Midfielder **Elliot Lee** has also left Wrexham by mutual consent.

BBC Sport Wales — 1-2 Sep; Nation.Cymru — 2 Sep

Newport lose at Salford despite wonder goal. Harrison Biggins scored an early goal-of-the-season contender — a lob from inside his own half with keeper Will Norris off his line — but Salford's Taylor Allen equalised and substitute **Kelly N'Mai** volleyed a 90th-minute winner as Newport fell to a battling 2-1 defeat.

Nation.Cymru / PA — 1 Sep

? Quick Summary

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🇬🇧 Politics	Farage's £5m donor has ~15% QinetiQ stake (Aberporth/Pendine); arms summit protests due; Tice on Reform opposition; ALN funding row
🇬🇧 Health	Gender surgery patients told in hospital; testosterone prescribing lottery; corridor care analysis
🇬🇧 Crime	Port Talbot paedophile jailed 21 years; Bennett sea-flee sentence; Newport PSPO renewal
🇬🇧 Economy	Orchard Media collapse (~70 jobs); £7.5m housing investment; Tai Clyd energy pilot; construction skills push
🇬🇧 Rural	Widow breaks silence on slurry-tank farm death; record farm fatalities
🇬🇧 Culture	Casualty 40th special 5 Sep; Tom Jones Tower of Song tears; Lane7 Cardiff opens 18 Sep
🇬🇧 Sport	Swansea top after 2-0 Watford win; Monga loan sealed; Wrexham sign O'Hare; Coady with Liverpool U21s

Compiled 2 Sep 2026 by Emrys (Hermes cron) · Sources: BBC Wales, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport Wales, Nation.Cymru, GOV.WALES, PA, LDR. SearXNG returned garbage mode on all three queries (Wikipedia/travel/language spam — zero news leads); all articles fetched via the Playwright-fetch service (192.168.178.100:8090). GOV.WALES fresh release: FM budget-warning statement (1 Sep 23:00). No UK roundup file existed yet at compile time (headlines-02-09 not found). Skipped as repeats/covered: Aberfan survivors (01-09), burnout features (01-09), Marloes missing-teen search called off (01-09), rare striped hawk-moth (01-09), Dolly Parton death/Welsh roots (27-29 Aug), gender surgery pause announcement (29-08), Coady Wrexham exit (01-09), Iorpenda/Monga agreement (01-09), Rhooose hotel doc, jobs-demand analysis, Nepal flood worker (01-09).