Welsh Headlines — 21 Nov 2026

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? Top Story: Burnham tells the FM no on policing, justice and the Crown Estate

Andy Burnham has rejected the First Minister's calls to devolve policing and justice, the Crown Estate and rail infrastructure to Wales, telling Rhun ap Iorwerth in a letter that he is "not persuaded" by the case. The letter, seen by BBC Wales, follows what had been billed as positive talks in Glasgow last month — after which ap Iorwerth said he thought "instinctively the prime minister wants to go there".

Burnham wrote that the "integrated England and Wales policing system is essential to maintaining interoperability", and that the current settlement lets Wales "benefit from the resources, expertise and resilience" of a shared justice system. He rejected transferring management of the Crown Estate in Wales, or even preparing for a future transfer, and argued that full rail devolution would fragment the cross-border network, with Great British Railways working alongside Transport for Wales.

The First Minister's office accused Burnham of "turning his back on devolution" and of not viewing Wales as an "equal nation" — and the decision puts the PM at odds with Welsh Labour leader Ken Skates, who restated at his party's conference last weekend that policing and the Crown Estate should be devolved. The four areas were named as the Welsh Government's immediate priorities in a written answer to the Senedd on 11 November; ap Iorwerth has long argued Wales should have the same powers as Scotland, and days after the

Glasgow meeting told the Senedd that talks on policing and justice were moving more slowly than he wanted. His reasoning echoes Welsh Secretary Stephen Kinnock, who said in July he was "not entirely convinced".

? Boxing: Price becomes Wales' first undisputed world champion

Lauren Price is Wales' first undisputed world boxing champion after a unanimous, shut-out points win over Michaela Kotaskova at a sold-out Utilita Arena in Cardiff — 100-90 on all three judges' scorecards. The 32-year-old Olympic champion from Caerphilly took every round to add the vacant WBO belt to the WBA, WBC, IBF, IBO and Ring titles she already held, extending her perfect professional record to 11 wins from 11 fights.

Price's walk-on — Dafydd Iwan's "Yma o Hyd" sung by a choir — set the tone, and she was first to the punch throughout against a durable opponent who had never been stopped. Not even Joe Calzaghe, unbeaten in 46 fights, managed undisputed status; Welsh boxing has produced 14 world champions, and none had held all four major belts until last night. Talk in the ring immediately turned to a stadium fight next summer, with five-weight champion Claressa Shields the name on everyone's lips.

?? Senedd: £42m office block renovation questioned as the £109m budget passes

MSs passed the Welsh Parliament's £109m budget for 2027-28 on Wednesday, with only Plaid Cymru supporting it as a group — and Conservative and Reform members using the debate to attack a £42m, three-year renovation of the Tŷ Hywel office block. Most Labour members abstained; the Tories and Reform opposed.

Conservative MS Andrew RT Davies called the Bay 32 project "quite a difficult sell, to say the least" when "hospitals, schools and other key projects are struggling for capital expenditure", questioning a nearly 6.5% rise in the Senedd's budget and staffing that has grown from 444 full-time equivalents in 2018 to 523 in March 2026. Reform's Cai Parry-Jones told the BBC the proposed expansion was unnecessary; commissioner Peredur Owen Griffiths said the institution would seek value for money. Plaid's Elfed Williams backed the work, warning that doing nothing was "kicking the problem into the long grass" and that the Senedd would eventually face significant repair costs for a building "not fit for purpose".

? Tenby: "we're being left behind" over one of the UK's worst phone signals

Pembrokeshire's tourist heartland is struggling with some of the worst mobile coverage in Britain — and businesses say calls, card payments and parking apps fail daily in a town that draws nearly six million visitors to the county each year. Mid and South Pembrokeshire MP Henry Tufnell led a Westminster debate on rural connectivity on Wednesday, telling MPs that waiting until 2028 for a key mast upgrade was "not good enough" and that "reliable broadband and mobile signal are not luxuries".

Ofcom data puts his constituency 444th of 650 for mobile service quality, and Which? named Tenby's SA70 postcode the worst in the UK for network quality in 2025; the problem was worsened by a mast being decommissioned earlier this year, hitting O2, Vodafone and Three customers. Tufnell said just 1% of premises in his constituency have high-quality 5G standalone signal, against 86% nationally. One shopkeeper told the BBC he spends hours a week calling customers back after lines cut out; the UK government said it had "big ambitions" on connectivity.

? St Mellons: two Gwent officers sacked for lying about missing-person searches

Two Gwent Police officers who claimed they had searched the homes of two women who later died in the St Mellons crash have been sacked for gross misconduct. PC Richard Hardwick and PC Lauren Livingstone were found to have been "dishonest" in official logs and to a senior officer about searches of the homes of Eve Smith and Sophie Russon before the car carrying five people was found in woodland two days later, in March 2023.

Panel chairman Ian Arundale said a final written warning was not an option given the level of harm and culpability, and that the pair had deliberately misled a missing-persons investigation in a high-profile case. The police watchdog called their actions "inexcusable". Eve Smith's mother Emma Borg said the family had been forced to revisit "the most painful period" of their lives and that the dishonesty "undermined the missing persons' investigation and the trust our families desperately needed"; her sister Lauren Doyle called the outcome "an important step", adding: "Our search for answers continues."

?? Welshpool: ten years for killing a father on his son's engagement night

A 23-year-old man has been jailed for ten years for killing a father of 12 who had travelled to Welshpool to celebrate his son's engagement. Martin Slezak, of Stanley Street, Welshpool, was cleared of murder but convicted of manslaughter after the June altercation at a kebab shop on Church Street; he was sentenced by Judge Geraint Walters at Caernarfon Crown Court.

CCTV showed Young John Mongan, 49, from Walsall, backing out of the shop before Slezak followed him into the street and punched him in the head, apparently knocking him unconscious instantly. Dyfed-Powys Police said Slezak kept punching the motionless man and then kicked him in the head while his family looked on; Mongan died in the early hours despite efforts from the public and emergency services. His family said they had been "robbed of years of love, laughter, memories", and that his two youngest daughters, who witnessed the attack, "will never have their father there to walk them down the aisle".

? Ysbyty Gwynedd opens Britain's first dual helipad

Ysbyty Gwynedd in Bangor has become the first hospital in Britain with two fully operational helipads, allowing an air ambulance and a coastguard rescue helicopter to land at the same time. The £2.3m facility opened on Monday, replacing a single pad installed in 1997, and will serve Wales Air Ambulance and HM Coastguard crews.

The HELP Appeal contributed £1.5m — its first project in Wales and the 55th helipad it has funded — with more than £800,000 from the Welsh Government. Dr Pete Williams, clinical lead for the emergency department, said a second pad removes the risk of one aircraft waiting for another to leave "when every minute matters"; health minister Mabon ap Gwynfor said it would "make a real difference to outcomes for seriously ill and injured patients".

? Environment: Nannau appeal past halfway — and a village fights its data centre

Coed Cadw says it has "every confidence" it can raise the £13m needed to buy the 1,531-hectare Nannau estate in Eryri by the end of the year, with more than half already pledged. Director Kylie Jones Mattock said taking on Nannau was "a significant responsibility", describing 317 hectares of ancient woodland, temperate rainforest and the Parc Nannau SSSI as of international importance — including an oak among the 200 largest trees in Europe — and a landscape tied to the Owain Glyndŵr legend of Ceubren yr Ellyll.

In Neath Port Talbot, around 40 residents met in Margam to demand the council reconsider its approval of a 12MW data centre at Tyn-y-Caeau, near junction 38 of the M4. Julie Mills said only a few planning notices were posted on lampposts off the A48 where few people walk, that there was no public meeting before permission was granted in May, and that a noise assessment contained an incorrect reference while a bat survey was dated later than its submission. Residents want the permission withdrawn and a full review, citing flood risk, a high-pressure gas main, wildlife, cooling noise and backup-generator pollution.

? Culture: Rings of Power, a minister's Star Wars cameo and an export bar

Morfydd Clark has been telling how filming The Rings of Power let her see "all these secret bits" of Wales she had never visited, with the third series shot at locations including Neath Abbey and Trefil Quarry in Blaenau Gwent. The Penarth-born actress, who plays Galadriel, admitted slipping Welsh words into the role — including "cer", the Welsh for "go", to her horse — and joked that things were going "terribly" for Middle Earth now that "Sauron is back and powerful and evil".

Enterprise minister Adam Price has hinted at a secret cameo in the Welsh-language Star Wars, telling LBS News Wales he had "made the cut" for *Gobaith Newydd* — "I've always been a rebel, but this time I think I'm on the other side, sadly." The dub, with Matthew Rhys as Han Solo, Rhys Ifans as Obi-Wan and Mark Lewis Jones as Darth Vader, airs on S4C on Christmas Day. Separately, the UK government has placed a temporary export bar on a 1662 bird's-eye view of Llannerch Park, Denbighshire — thought to be the earliest known British country estate landscape — to give a gallery time to raise the funds to keep it.

? Sport: Wales chase a hat-trick of Cardiff wins

Wales face Australia at the Principality Stadium tonight (20:10 GMT) seeking a third straight home win in the Nations Championship, a week after beating New Zealand for the first time in 73 years. It will be the 50th meeting between the sides; head coach Steve Tandy said the All Blacks win was "a real test of our mental and physical preparation" and warned: "We can't assume that because one scoreboard went our way, everything is fixed."

Fans are being warned there will be no direct trains to London after the final whistle because of the late kick-off, with GWR running extra services only as far as Swansea, Bristol and Swindon; post-match queues open at 9.30pm and roads around the stadium close from 4pm until midnight. More than 100,000 passengers travelled in and out of Cardiff for

the Japan and New Zealand fixtures. In darts, Gerwyn Price survived match darts to reach the Grand Slam semi-finals in Wolverhampton.

?? Weather

No weather warnings are in force for the UK. BBC Weather has Cardiff on a high of 9°C and a low of 7°C today with sunny intervals and light winds; Sunday turns wet, with heavy rain and a moderate breeze (8/4), Monday is mostly cloudy and dry (8/6) and Tuesday brings more heavy rain (9/5). Sunrise was 07:41, sunset 16:16.

? Also worth knowing

- **Brain tumour appeal:** Iola Williams, from Gwynedd, who lost her father Billy in 2004, her mother Eleanor a decade later and her sister Helen in 2024 — all to brain tumours — says she has seen "no change" in diagnosis or treatment in 20 years and wants more investment in research. Helen was diagnosed with glioblastoma on her 56th birthday and died three months later. *(BBC Cymru Fyw)*
- **Museum costs:** Repairs at the National Slate Museum in Llanberis are now expected to cost £30m against an original £25m, and the National Museum in Cardiff will need "a lot more" than £13m, according to Amgueddfa Cymru chief executive Jane Richardson — with Llanberis now unlikely to reopen before 2028. On Friday the Welsh Government confirmed an extra £2.4m of capital for the slate museum; ministers have rejected suggestions an entry fee would be introduced.
- **Reform apology:** Reform UK's Blaenau Gwent, Rhymney and Caerphilly branch has apologised after member Jordan Brace — a would-be local election candidate — posted AI-generated material portraying himself as an elected "politician" and claimed credit for road resurfacing carried out by others. Branch chair Jan Walsh said the posts were "inappropriate" and had been removed.
- **Sentencing review:** The family of Natasha Farah, 31, left with a serious brain injury in Rhos-on-Sea in April, want her ex-partner's sentence reviewed — John Gizzi, 55, of St Asaph, was jailed for four years and 11 months at Mold Crown Court — and are backing petitions for "Tasha's Law" so sentences "mirror" the crime. The attorney general's office confirmed applications to review the sentence have been submitted.
- **Nepo baby:** Catherine Zeta-Jones's daughter Carys Douglas, 23, who made her stage debut in Chekhov's *The Seagull* in Brooklyn this year, says her parents warned her people would have "preconceived notions" and taught her that "building my own identity depended on me and no one else".

Method: SearXNG leads (mixed — a WalesOnline live blog, the Guardian section and several stale/irrelevant hits, dropped on their own datelines), then indexes and article bodies fetched via the Playwright service on MacBach (.100:8090): BBC Wales, BBC Wales Politics, BBC Cymru Fyw, BBC Sport Wales, BBC Welsh Rugby, the BBC "Welsh Parliament" topic page, Nation.Cymru (news, home and sport), walesupdates.uk, the GOV.WALES news index, Guardian Wales RSS and BBC

Weather, plus the BBC weather warnings page. Everything written up published after yesterday's 09:00 compile. Not repeated: the All Blacks win itself, the Wales v Australia team selection, the Lauren Price fight build-up, the data centre pause call, the draft budget's publication and the first ministers' Glasgow talks. Nitter, Phice, Flaresolverr and Reddit skipped as instructed. No UK roundup file existed for today.

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