

At last it appears the summer has arrived! Hopefully it will not be a short-lived summer although considering the unpredictability of the weather of recent weeks I won't be surprised if we experience more downpours of rain.

And it appears that the political climate has changed a little recently also. The calmness of recess is passing with a more unsettled front appearing. Last week, I was very pleased to support calls by Adam Price MP to demand that the BBC respect Wales and acknowledge our existence politically.

It seems that Welsh news stories rarely make UK-wide news bulletins; very often we are side-lined, despite the magnitude of the issues at hand. Take the historic coalition talks and the eventual creation of the One Wales Government. That period was the most exciting in Welsh politics and among the most historic events in Welsh civic society.

Such news failed to make the UK-wide news network.

The fate of Shambo the bull received more coverage than the fate of the Government of Wales. No self-respecting country can accept such treatment. We in Wales pay or TV License and are right to expect equality of treatment. BBC Wales does a great job with the limited resources available to it, but the BBC centrally must recognise its obligation to all constituent parts of the UK.

This will be an ongoing debate but it must conclude, in the short term, with the establishment of a commission to investigate and recommend on broadcasting in Wales.

Another timely issue that has come to my attention recently is the number of bank holidays we have in Wales in comparison to other European countries.

I hope readers enjoyed their recent bank holiday, and I am of the opinion that we should have more. The European average is eleven public holidays a year, but in Wales we only have eight.

People in Northern Ireland enjoy ten public holidays a year whilst in Scotland they enjoy one public holiday a year more than we do.

I have heard many arguments about the apparent detrimental economic implications of more public holidays, although evidence for this argument appears hard to come by.

The Republic of Ireland for example, has nine public holidays a year and the Irish economy is of course, among the strongest in Europe. Tiny Luxembourg is another good example, enjoying twelve public holidays a year and is among the most prosperous of all industrialised nations.

At the very least, I believe St David's Day should be a public holiday, although we would still be below the over-all European average. In the meantime it seems we will have to dip into our annual leave allowance before we will catch up with our European partners.

