# Fiona Bruce regains control during heated Question Time debate on Welsh devolution



During a recent episode of BBC's political discussion show, Question Time, aired on April 3, host Fiona Bruce found herself in a position of needing to regain control amidst a spirited debate between Welsh Member of Parliament Rhun ap Iorwerth and Labour MP Sir Chris Bryant. The central topic of the discussion was the implications of devolution on the lives of the Welsh populace.

Fiona Bruce commenced the dialogue by directing a question towards Rhun about the ratio of politicians in Wales compared to other regions in the UK, specifically asking why Wales requires one member of the Senate for every 32,200 people, as opposed to Scotland's one member for every 42,000 and England’s one for each 104,000. She queried, "So why in Wales do you need it per 32,000? Why do you need more politicians per head?"

In response, Rhun stated, "I believe we should have fair representation in democracy," to which Fiona countered, "So having more is fair?" Rhun elaborated that independent studies over the past 26 years indicate the necessity for "the tools to do the job," arguing for the justification of Wales’ representation relative to its needs.

However, as the conversation unfolded, Rhun began to draw parallels to issues regarding the refurbishment of the Houses of Parliament, which prompted Fiona to intervene. She expressed her frustration, stating, "Are we not quite far off the subject now Rhun?" Despite her attempts to redirect the conversation towards devolution, Rhun persisted in discussing Westminster's renovations, leading to a heated exchange.

In an effort to regain control, Fiona exclaimed, "Rhun I'm going to stop you because that is just not on," and insisted that the topic was not relevant to the current discussion. Following this, she turned to the audience for their input, asking, "Does anyone else think it's got anything to do with the refurbishment of Westminster?" The audience responded with a strong collective "No."

Amidst this, Chris Bryant, another panel member, seized the opportunity to highlight Labour's contributions to Wales through devolution, including the introduction of free prescriptions. He articulated, "I think it needs more doctors and nurses than it needs more politicians, to tell you the truth," reiterating the necessity for a focus on public services over increased political representation.

As the episode progressed, the dynamics among the panellists intensified, prompting Fiona to firmly assert her authority as host. She remarked, "I am taking control of this, because you guys are jumping in all the time!" This declaration elicited applause from the audience, reflecting a moment of relief for viewers witnessing the spirited debate.

The episode concluded with notable discussions surrounding the recent decision by the Senedd to increase its membership from 60 to 96 at the upcoming election, a move that has sparked debate over the financial implications for public services. An audience member voiced concerns that resources should be allocated to critical sectors such as education and healthcare rather than expanding the number of politicians.

This particular episode of Question Time concluded the current series with a blend of laughter, tension, and applause, underscoring the heated yet engaging nature of political discourse. The programme remains available for viewing on BBC iPlayer.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MKDUMxbveBc> - Corroborates the incident on BBC Question Time where host Fiona Bruce intervened during a heated debate involving MP Rhun ap Iorwerth and Labour MP Sir Chris Bryant regarding devolution in Wales.
* <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m001lzd9/question-time-04042025> - Provides access to the relevant Question Time episode on BBC iPlayer, allowing viewers to witness the discussed debate firsthand.
* <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-wales-politics-65548722> - Supports the discussion on devolution and the proposed changes in Wales, such as the Senedd's plan to increase its membership, which was a central point in the debate.
* <https://www.noahwire.com> - Serves as the source of the article detailing the intense debate and interactions on the BBC's Question Time about Welsh devolution and its implications.
* <https://senedd.wales> - Provides information directly from the Senedd, the parliament of Wales, which can include updates on their proposed changes in membership and other related political developments.
* <https://www.parliament.uk/business/news/2023/parliament-and-government-devolution/> - Offers background information on the broader topic of devolution across the UK, including Scotland and England, which was referenced during the debate.
* <https://www.devonlive.com/news/celebs-tv/bbc-question-times-fiona-bruce-10080059> - Please view link - unable to able to access data