

Agenda – Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 6 June 2024

Meeting time: 12.30

For further information contact:

Lleu Williams

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Pre-meeting registration

(12.20 – 12.30)

Public

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(12.30)

2 Charging for exhibitions: Evidence session with cultural bodies, representative bodies and museum experts

(12.30 – 13.45)

(Pages 1 – 25)

Nia Elias, Director Relationships and Funding, Amgueddfa Cymru – Museum Wales

Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Chief Executive Officer, National Library of Wales

Lisa Ollerhead, Director, Association of Independent Museums

Dr Mark O’Neill, former Head of Glasgow Museums

Attached Documents:

Visit information pack for Members



Risk assessment

Research brief

3 Papers(s) to note

(13.45)

3.1 Legislative Consent: Data Protection and Digital Information Bill

(Pages 26 – 38)

Attached Documents:

Welsh Government response to the Committee's report on Data Protection and Digital Information Bill Supplementary Legislative Consent Memoranda No.3 – 13 May 2024

Letter copied for information from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language to the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: Copies of correspondence between the former First Minister and Julia Lopez MP, Minister of State for Data and Digital Infrastructure to inform the Committee's consideration of the legislative consent memoranda laid on the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill – 13 May 2024

Annex 1

Annex 2

Annex 3

Response from Julia Lopez MP, Minister of State for Data and Digital Infrastructure: The establishment of a National Underground Asset Register – 16 May 2024

3.2 Books Council of Wales magazine funding model

(Pages 39 – 45)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Chair, Welsh Executive Council, National Union of Journalists: Raising concerns around the recent Books Council of Wales decision to stop funding English magazines – 10 May 2024

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice: Requesting information relating to the distribution of funding for magazines by the

Books Council of Wales – 21 May 2024

Letter to the Books Council of Wales: Requesting clarification of issues relating to a new tender opportunity for a new English magazine in Wales – 23 May 2024

3.3 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25

(Pages 46 – 56)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence copied for information from David Leigh to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice: Expressing concerns about funding cuts to Wales' heritage, museums and opera – 14 May 2024

Letter from Andy Warnock, Regional Organiser, Wales and South West England Musicians' Union: Raising concerns about cuts to the Welsh National Opera's funding – 15 May 2024

Further letter from Andy Warnock, Regional Organiser, Wales and South West England Musicians' Union: Update on previous letter relating to Welsh National Opera funding cuts – 30 May 2024

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice: Requesting information relating to the impact of funding cuts on the Welsh National Opera – 21 May 2024

Response to the Chair of the Finance Committee: Providing the Committee's views to inform future scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget – 17 May 2024

3.4 Challenges facing the creative industry workforce in Wales

(Pages 57 – 58)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Minister for Social Partnership: Sharing the Creative Wales Industry Survey 2023 report following a commitment during the Welsh Government's evidence session on the Committee's inquiry into the challenges facing the creative industries workforce in Wales – 14 May 2024

3.5 Welsh Government international relations

(Page 59)

Attached Documents:

Ministerial International Engagement – April 2024

3.6 Wales–Ireland relations

(Pages 60 – 61)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the First Minister: Requesting the shared learning progress prepared for the Ireland–Wales Forum 2024 – 24 May 2024

3.7 Culture and the new relationship with the EU

(Pages 62 – 69)

Attached Documents:

Letter to Arts Infopoint UK – Inviting written evidence for the Committee's inquiry on culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 23 May 2024

Letter to the Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media, Houses of the Oireachtas – Inviting written evidence for the Committee's inquiry on culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 23 May 2024

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy, and Welsh Language and Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice: Requesting additional information in relation to the Committee's inquiry on culture and the new relationship with the European Union following the evidence session on 15 May 2024 – 22 May 2024

Letter to the Minister for Social Partnership: Requesting information in relation to the Committee's inquiry on culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 22 May 2024

4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting

(13.45)

Private

5 Charging for exhibitions: Consideration of evidence

(13.45 – 14.05)

6 Establishment and remits of committees

(14.05 – 14.15)

(Pages 70 – 72)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Y Llywydd and Chair of the Business Committee inviting views on current committee remits – 22 May 2024

Annex

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Agenda Item 6.1

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/FM/0609/24

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

13 May 2024

Dear Chair

Further to the Committee's report on the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill Supplementary Legislative Consent Memoranda (LCM) No.3 (Conclusion 6), and the laying of Supplementary LCM No.4 on 25 April, attached is a copy of our updated assessment in relation to the Trade and Co-operation Agreement and UK Government Data Protection and Digital Information Bill.

I am copying this letter to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee.

Yours sincerely

Jeremy Miles AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Annex 1 - Trade and Co-Operation Agreement and the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill – Analysis

Will the Bill impact the UK's compliance with data protection provisions in the TCA?

1. Our view is that the UK Data Protection and Digital Information Bill ('the Bill'), including the amendments detailed in [Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum](#) No.4 laid 25 April, will not have a direct or immediate impact on the UK's compliance with the Trade and Co-Operation Agreement (TCA), which is a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the UK and EU.
2. Our view is that the changes to the UK data protection framework proposed by the Bill as drafted are unlikely to impact on the UK's compliance with TCA, as its data protection provisions are generally broad and high level, except rules on data transfer relating to law and enforcement matters, which are more specific.
3. However, we are concerned that that the Bill signals the beginning of the UK's divergence from the data protection regime currently in place across the EU and the UK (the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)). Regulatory divergence over the medium-to-long-term has the potential to undermine the data protection provisions in the TCA across a broad range of policy areas, including digital trade which is essential for public services and private businesses, and law and enforcement.

Why could the UK's divergence from the EU's data protection regime undermine the TCA?

4. Data adequacy decisions¹ made by the EU about the UK confirm that the UK is recognised as having an equivalent level of protection for personal data as the EU, enabling personal data to flow freely between the EU and the UK, supporting public services and private businesses. The UK adequacy decisions also help to facilitate implementation of the TCA which includes a commitment by the EU and UK to uphold high levels of data protection standards.
5. Our view is that there are a number of provisions within the Bill as drafted that potentially undermine the current data protection framework, and therefore may threaten relevant adequacy decisions. These concerns include provisions relating to the independence of the Information Commissioner, onwards transfer of data, the rights of individuals, risk mitigation, additional grounds for data processing and high-risk data processing.
6. The potential loss of EU data adequacy is a key concern from a trade perspective. This would be a major threat for Welsh exporting businesses whose main overseas market continues to be the EU. From a broader perspective, the loss of data adequacy would also impact the delivery of those public services which rely on the flow of personal data between UK and the EU.

¹ [Adequacy](#) | ICO – UK Information Commissioner's Office

7. UK Government have provided assurances that they see no threat to the adequacy agreement by the Bill. However, we have no evidence to prove or disprove this. We have requested that UK Government share a copy of its risk assessment on the matter on several occasions, but we are yet to receive it.
8. An assessment of the likely impact of the Bill on data adequacy decisions has been undertaken by Welsh Government which supports concerns raised by others, including the [Northern Ireland Executive](#). We continue to seek assurances from UKG on the matter.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language



Ein cyf/Our ref MA/FM/0609/24

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

13 May 2024

Dear Chair,

The Committee's report on the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 3) on the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill requested copies of three pieces of correspondence between the former First Minister and Julia Lopez, Minister of State for Data and Digital Infrastructure to inform your consideration of the legislative consent memoranda laid on the Bill.

The UK Government are content for the correspondence to be shared with the Senedd Committees. The correspondence is annexed to this letter.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language

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We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.



Ein cyf/Our ref: IM/FM -/00016/24

Julia Lopez MP
Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure
Department for Science, Innovation and Technology
enquiries@dcms.gov.uk

23 January 2024

Dear Julia Lopez,

I am writing in response to your letter dated 9 January, regarding the Data Protection and Digital Information (DPDI) Bill and the inclusion of a provision for the National Underground Asset Register.

I note that your devolution analysis indicated that legislative consent is required for the NUAR provisions and can confirm these were included in the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum laid in the Senedd on 13 December.

Welsh Government officials have been actively engaged in the development of the new NUAR digital service. However, while we are supportive of the overall policy intent of the NUAR, we have significant concerns about the UK Government's proposed legislative approach to operationalise the service.

Under clause 141, Transfer of certain functions to Secretary of State, it is proposed that certain powers to make regulations under section 79 of the New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) 1991 be transferred from the Welsh Ministers to the Secretary of State. These powers relate to information to be recorded about apparatus in streets.

In your letter you state the UK Government has proposed the transfer of powers to enable the Secretary of State to make the regulations that will set out the detail around how the NUAR will operate in practice. You believe this is needed to enable a consistent legislative framework across England and Wales to underpin the operation of the NUAR, ensuring the information entered into and shared through the NUAR will be "consistent in content and format in respect of all apparatus, irrespective of the country it is located within".

It is incredibly disappointing that, despite being involved in the development of the new NUAR digital service, we were not made aware of the proposed changes to Welsh Ministers' powers until the day before the amendments were tabled in Parliament. Exchanging views on provisions which engage the legislative consent process as early as possible, with the view to resolving consent issues before introduction, is one of the key principles of engagement as agreed by the Inter-ministerial Standing Committee.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

The regulation powers under the NRSWA 1991 sit with Welsh Ministers as part of devolution, with the powers originally transferred to the then National Assembly for Wales in 1999. The proposed removal of a devolved executive function from the Welsh Ministers represents a completely inappropriate reversal of devolution. Not only has this transfer been proposed without prior consultation with Welsh Ministers, it also shows little regard for the devolved competences of the Welsh Government and our legislature, going against the jointly agreed principles, as outlined within the [Review of Intergovernmental Relations](#), of mutual respect and trust.

While your letter states that consistency is crucial to ensure the NUAR operates effectively, I do not consider this to be a valid reason for the transfer of powers from Welsh Ministers. Welsh Ministers have exercised their powers under section 79 of the NRSWA 1991 and the form of records prescribed, and the exceptions prescribed for the recording of location, are consistent with those set out in the regulations applicable to England. There is no valid reason why this approach would differ in the future.

As such, I would argue that the removal of Welsh Ministers' powers would be a disproportionate approach to ensuring information consistency. There are other more pragmatic, proven means of inter-governmental working in place that allow us to discharge our functions in a coherent manner, whilst achieving shared policy objectives.

A 'consult' mechanism has been included within the NUAR provisions, which would require the Secretary of State to consult Welsh Ministers prior to exercising these powers in future. However, a consultation requirement places no binding commitment on the current or any future UK Government to take our views into account following consultation and does not suitably reflect devolution. Therefore, this is not constitutionally acceptable and cannot compensate for the removal of powers which Welsh Ministers already hold.

Furthermore, the amendments to section 79 of the NRSWA 1991 within the DPDI Bill do not set out that the "record of information" is to be used or recorded solely for the purposes of the NUAR. Nor is there anything to indicate that these records cannot be used for other purposes beyond the remit of the NUAR. This means that whilst the record of information is crucial for the NUAR, any regulations made by Welsh Ministers under their existing powers could have a purpose beyond that of the NUAR. This, again, suggests that the removal of Welsh Ministers' powers would be a disproportionate approach.

Finally, I am concerned our ability to control our own data in Wales will be negatively impacted by these provisions, where they provide for the Secretary of State to hold the data contained within the register of information. Bodies in Wales currently have access to such data and it is important the right to access the data and make changes to it, as and when required, is retained. The provisions, as drafted, could result in Welsh Government and Welsh public bodies being unable to freely access and use data generated in Wales.

The Welsh Government is supportive of NUAR from a policy perspective as it supports our Strategic Infrastructure Steering group (SIS) project in Wales, which improves efficiency in planned works between utility companies and local authorities, as well as improved planning for utility companies on future housing and industrial developments. We must be able to determine and collect the data that is required for our own priorities, which may mean that we require additional information to be recorded, compared to what is required in England for NUAR.

On a more positive note, I understand that our respective officials met on 11 January to discuss the concerns raised in this letter with the view to seeking a mutually agreeable way

forward on NUAR. I hope these discussions will achieve a positive outcome for Wales and I look forward to receiving further communication from you about this matter.

On a wider DPDI Bill perspective, Wales has other outstanding concerns and I wrote to the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology on these matters on 14 November. I still await a reply.

I am copying this to SoS Michael Gove, given his responsibilities for the Union.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Drakeford". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

MARK DRAKEFORD



Department for
Science, Innovation
& Technology

Julia Lopez MP
Minister of State for Data and Digital Infrastructure
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100 Parliament Street
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Rt Hon Mark Drakeford MS
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6 February 2024

Dear Mark,

I am writing to you about an update in devolution analysis on provisions in Part 2 of the Data Protection and Digital Information (DPDI) Bill.

Part 2 of the DPDI Bill regulates the provision of Digital Verification Services (DVS), which the UK Government maintains is reserved under the Internet Services reservation. As a result of updated devolution analysis I am seeking further agreement for two measures within Part 2.

The DVS provisions in this Bill aim to increase trust in and acceptance of digital identities across the UK to help make identity proofing easier, cheaper and more secure and to enable a trusted digital identity market to develop in the UK for those that choose to use it to prove things about themselves. To do this, the measures establish a framework of standards and governance for the provision of digital verification services in the UK.

Clause 74 of the Bill creates a permissive power for public authorities to share information with registered digital verification providers for the purpose of providing digital verification services. Clause 78(3) requires public authorities who decide to share information in reliance on the power in Clause 74 to have due regard to a Code of Practice.

The UK Government maintains that these functions are reserved, but in further consideration of the Welsh Devolution Guidance Note, which sets out that consent should also be sought when conferring or imposing reserved functions on a devolved Welsh authority, we have come to the view that it is appropriate to seek agreement to Clause 74 and Clause 78(3) - either through a Legislative Consent Motion or a statement made by the Welsh Ministers - noting that there is no procedure in the Senedd Standing Orders covering situations where a UK Parliament bill imposes reserved functions on devolved Welsh authorities. I hope you will be content to support this.

I would like to acknowledge and thank Welsh Government officials for their diligent work in engaging with those in DSIT on this matter already, and that officials are still in discussion on outstanding matters to resolve between our Departments on the DPDI Bill, including provisions in Part 2. I look forward to this collaboration continuing during the DPDI Bill's remaining stages and post Royal Assent during its implementation.

I look forward to continuing our work together on this vital legislation.

Julia Lopez MP
Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure



Department for
Science, Innovation
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Y Gwir Anrh/Rt Hon Mark Drakeford AS/MS
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1st March 2024

Dear Mark,

Thank you for your letter of 14 November 2023, to the Secretary of State for Science, Innovation and Technology, regarding the Data Protection and Digital Information (DPDI) Bill. I am responding as Minister of State to the Department with regards to the Data Protection and Digital Information (DPDI) Bill.

I would like to start by thanking both the First Minister and Welsh Government officials for their diligent work in engaging with the UK Government on these provisions already.

I am glad you agree that the DPDI Bill is an essential piece of legislation. It will make the UK's data laws among the most effective in the world, by maintaining high data protection standards while making common sense changes to put in place a pro-growth, innovation friendly data protection framework that will ensure that our regulation reflects the way real people live their lives and run their businesses. It will also enable the better use of data in health and adult social care, law enforcement and security across the UK, which will help all of those who use data to make our citizens' lives healthier, safer, and more prosperous.

My officials are currently engaging with their Welsh Government Official counterparts about a package of targeted changes to the DPDI Bill, which we would consider making, if you deemed them sufficient for the Welsh Government to be able to recommend consent to the bill in the Senedd. I look forward to your reply on this matter. I understand that your officials are advising you separately on this package.

In addition to this ongoing engagement, I would like to respond to the following specific issues set out in your letter:

Legislative consent and powers for Welsh Ministers (DVS)

You specifically referenced Part 2 of the DPDI Bill which the UK Government maintains is reserved under the Internet Services reservation. I am aware that the Welsh Government contests UK Government analysis with regard to certain measures in Part 2. I have written to you separately on this matter, on 6th February 2024, and I hope we may reach an agreed position. Alongside this, our officials remain in close on-going discussions to resolve these outstanding matters on the provisions in Part 2.

Proposed order making power and the exclusion of devolved authorities

Regarding the issue of reducing the burden on police to redact case files when sending them to CPS as part of the charging decision process and any possible order making power to this effect, the UK Government is still considering its approach. My officials continue to engage with

the Home Office to work through this matter, and will ensure that Welsh officials are informed of any further developments in this space.

Retention of EU data adequacy

I completely understand the strength of your concerns about ensuring our EU adequacy decisions are maintained. This is also a priority for the UK Government, as I and my fellow ministers have repeatedly made clear in public and on the floor of the House.

The UK Government's assessment of the reforms in the DPDI Bill is that they are compatible with maintaining adequacy. We maintain an ongoing dialogue with the EU and have a positive, constructive relationship. We have been proactively engaging with the European Commission since the start of the Bill's consultation process to ensure that they understand our reforms.

The European Commission itself recognises that countries can have independent data protection regimes and still succeed in maintaining high data protection standards. In January the EU published its review of 11 adequacy decisions (including those for New Zealand and Canada), which confirms that countries with independent approaches to data protection remain adequate. Even after our reform, the UK will continue to have one of the closest data protection regimes to the EU in the world. I would draw your attention to the similar [statements](#) made by the independent Information Commissioner, in his response to the DPDI Bill.

With regards to your request for us to share the details of our risk assessment with you, I must unfortunately decline. You will appreciate, it is important that officials have the ability to conduct candid discussions during the policy making process.

However, I would like to reassure you once again that the UK Government takes the matter of retaining our adequacy decisions incredibly seriously, as I know the Welsh Government does. To help provide as much information as possible on our approach, I have instructed my officials to host regular verbal briefings on this matter with Welsh Government counterparts. I understand the first of these has already taken place and I welcome and encourage their continuation.

Our officials have continued to engage regularly and are working closely to reach agreement on these provisions. With the outlined points above and our on-going discussions, I am confident that our governments can work collaboratively on this vital legislation, and hope that we can reach an agreed position on the Bill.



Julia Lopez MP
Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure



Delyth Jewell MS

Committee Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport,
and International Relations Committee

16 May 2024

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 19 February 2024, my apologies for my delayed response. However, I am pleased to advise that during this time, my Department has been in close communication with Welsh Government Officials to reach an agreed position on the Data Protection and Digital Information ('DPDI') Bill. This dialogue remains on-going.

The Data Protection and Digital Information Bill is an essential piece of legislation that will make the UK's data laws among the most effective in the world, by maintaining high data protection standards and making common sense changes to put in place a pro-growth, innovation friendly data protection framework. Since the introduction of the DPDI Bill, we have added a number of amendments to the Bill. Whilst many of the Government's amendments are technical in nature, others are key to unlocking the immense possibilities of data use to improve the lives of everyone in the UK.

National Underground Asset Register

The National Underground Asset Register (NUAR), as you are aware, is a new digital map built in partnership with Welsh and NI government officials to improve the way we install, maintain, operate and repair the pipes and cables buried beneath our feet. Approximately 1 in every 65 holes dug results in an accidental asset strike (c. 60,000 a year), which is far too high, causing around £2.4 billion worth of economic cost, putting workers' lives at risk and disrupting our day-to-day lives. We estimate NUAR will generate in excess of £400m in total benefits per annum through increased efficiency, reduced accidental damage and reduced disruptions for citizens and businesses. Immediate access to data in a digital, standardized format will also help improve worker safety.

The Geospatial Commission, part of the Department for Science, Innovation & Technology, has been working closely with Welsh Government officials to develop the NUAR platform from the onset in 2021, which is why Wales was one of the first areas to benefit from the new services in 2022. Officials have and continue to actively contribute to the platform's development, ensuring that it aligns with the specific needs and requirements of Welsh Government, asset owners and excavators. They have played a crucial role in getting asset owners across Wales involved with the NUAR, facilitating the inclusion of data related to underground pipes and cables in the register. Additionally, Welsh Government are actively sharing relevant data through the NUAR, ensuring that workers can access this through the new register. Most recently, officials participated in a discovery project to explore the technical feasibility of sharing data between NUAR and DataMapWales, a digital platform that provides access to public sector data in Wales, including through a map interface. Furthermore, officials have been informed about legislative reforms related to operationalizing the NUAR service, which will ensure the benefits are realized across all areas of operation. However, these benefits can only be achieved with the proposed legislative provisions.

The majority of respondents to a 2022 public consultation on the future of NUAR stated new legislative reforms would be required to ensure workers have access to all the data they need, when they need it, through the new service. The requirement for legislation has been further reinforced in the current development phase of NUAR, where it has become increasingly clear that whilst a number of asset owners will voluntarily share their asset data, a proportion of asset owners will not do so in a timely manner, or keep it up to date, without new legislation being in place.

New reforms are required to establish NUAR as a statutory register for the sharing of buried utility data, to allow government to specify the data that is to be shared, who can access the data and the terms under which access may be granted, and to grant powers to charge fees to ensure the service is operationally viable and financially self-sustaining in future years without requiring use of public funds, as well as criminal offences for non-compliance.

Careful consideration was given as to the most appropriate legislative approach for bringing forward the necessary reforms to fully operationalise the digital service and realise the estimated benefits. It is our view that the best approach for introducing these new reforms is by updating existing data sharing obligations, rather than creating them afresh. Individual apparatus owners in England and Wales are already required to record information, maintain their own records and share information from those records with others as per the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991. With NUAR now live across England and Wales, it is appropriate to update these obligations to require the sharing of data through NUAR among other things.

We have adopted this approach after careful consideration and for important practical reasons; for NUAR to operate efficiently it is crucial that the legislative framework underpinning it is consistent in its approach across England and Wales. For example, for NUAR to be as effective and useful as possible, the information entered into it and then shared with others, must be consistent in content and format in respect of all apparatus. This also supports asset owners who operate across both nations, such as Virgin Media O2, Welsh and West Utilities and Openreach. Of course, we recognise the very keen interest that Welsh Ministers and the people of Wales will have in the content of any regulations made by the Secretary of State in relation to the devolved matter of street works, hence the inclusion of a clear requirement, prior to making such regulations, for the Secretary of State to have to consult Welsh Ministers.

Lastly, we have also taken care to ensure the provisions that are being taken forward do not prevent the Senedd from taking forward similar legislation in the future; for example, should Welsh Government wish to create their own version of NUAR, these provisions do not restrict the competency of the Senedd to do so.

We look forward to continuing our engagement with Welsh Ministers as we work to fully operationalise this high value service to improve worker safety and the resiliency of our critical services.

With best wishes,



Julia Lopez MP

Minister for Data and Digital Infrastructure

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Agenda Item 3.2



Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee

10 May 2024

Dear Delyth Jewell,

I write on behalf of the Welsh Executive Council of the National Union of Journalists, which I chair.

We are writing to you to raise our concerns which have arisen from the recent Books Council of Wales (BCW) decision to stop funding to *Planet: the Welsh Internationalist* magazine and *New Welsh Review*.

We are aware that both *Planet* and *New Welsh Review* have written to you in detail on this matter.

In August 2023 the NUJ signed an open letter as part of the Save Welsh Magazines Open letter campaign alongside 173 signatories including the Society of Authors Wales, WalesPENCymru, Cymdeithas yr Iaith and the Association of Welsh Writing in English. This letter highlighted how desperate funding conditions for magazines and websites had become following successive cuts and more demanding and time-consuming targets, and the impact of this on working conditions.

Successive cuts and worsening grant levels and often more stringent funding conditions have become normalised, creating a precedent leading to a race to the bottom in working conditions for employees and low contributor fees. In the case of *Planet*, this had led to the halving of their BCW core grant from £93,892 in 2008 to £45,000 and low wages and even longer unpaid overtime hours for staff who were directors.

Subsequently at the end of last year, the BCW decided to no longer offer funding to *Planet* and the *New Welsh Review* as part of the results of the new 2024-2028 grant franchise for English-language magazines. The removal of the funding from the two magazines which happened to be most prominent in the campaign has deepened the extent to which magazine and website publishers feel demoralised and undermined.

We are also aware of a letter from the BCW dated 20 December 2023 which has raised further concerns including the comment that some of the magazines made the case that their business model was no longer sustainable even if the grant had been increased. Both *Planet* and *New Welsh Review* have raised the point that BCW's definition in the letter regarding 'sustainability' is vague and was not communicated to applicants during the application procedure.

The publications have also stated that it is not the case that "This [unsubstantiality] would have remained even if the grant had been increased." In the case of *Planet*, in the most recent grant applications, they broke down how the upper amount applied for of £75,000 would have been sustainable. In the case of both *Planet* and *New Welsh Review*, they believe they satisfied the 'gearing ratio' grant condition of 2:1 set out in the BCW's guidelines.

While we appreciate that the BCW received applications worth £400,000 for a grant pot of £180,000 and is itself under pressure from cuts, it was later revealed that the sum of £95,000 – less than both *Planet's* or the *New Welsh Review's* funding requests - had been committed by the BCW for a brand-new English-language literary magazine that has yet to be launched and which hadn't applied to the competitive tender in 2023.

As a consequence of the decisions and as the core funding from the BCW ceased from 1 April 2024, the February 2024 issue was the final *Planet* issue with the loss of 3 part-time jobs and livelihoods (1.8 FTE employees). *New Welsh Review* has also lost 3 part-time jobs as a result of needing to wind up the company.

A strong Wales – visible, accountable and diverse – needs a strong media and the Welsh magazine and periodical sector to continue fostering publications in both languages and building cultural connections and providing platforms for vital dialogue. A strong and diverse media can act as voice, conscience and consciousness and remains the most effective means by which the nation can converse and shape the future together.

We also remain concerned that in campaigning for fairer funding conditions for magazines – including in a very detailed and heartfelt editorial published in November 2022 - this contributed in any way to funding being removed and if this will lead to other funded publishers becoming fearful of speaking out openly in the public interest about funding conditions and ever more demanding targets.

In June 2022, the NUJ wrote to the then Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport to express our concern about the decision of the Books Council of Wales to award a grant of £100,000 per year over four years to Newsquest for the establishment of a new Welsh language news website. At the same time the funding of the existing Welsh language news website Golwg 360 was halved.

It is NUJ policy that while we support the Welsh Government funding new media outlets, we believe that such funding should be channeled via a Wales Media Institute incorporating Welsh industry representatives including the NUJ. This is set out in the report [Of and For Wales: towards a sustainable future for public interest journalism](#) published in July 2023.

The NUJ would be extremely happy to attend the forthcoming Committee session on 15 May 2024 to give evidence if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Powell
Chair, Welsh Executive Council
National Union of Journalists

Lesley Griffiths MS

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice

Welsh Government

21 May 2024

Books Council of Wales

Dear Lesley

In recent weeks, we have received a **number of items correspondence** relating to the distribution of funding for magazines by the Books Council of Wales.

We have already **written** to the Books Council to ask questions about the decision-making processes which have been followed when it comes to awarding tenders for English-language magazines. We are concerned that the issues which have been raised with us stem from a lack of sufficient funding given to the Books Council.

As has been noted in the most recent (and, for now, final) **editorial of Planet magazine**, there have been successive reductions in the core grant given to their magazine, and others, from the Books Council, going back over a number of years. The editorial lays down a challenge to both the Senedd and the Welsh Government to ensure that there is sufficient funding to allow for a healthy Welsh media to hold those in power to account.

As you will know, declining budgets have had a devastating effect on the arts and culture sector. In light of these budget reductions, we would like to know:

- What discussions the Welsh Government has had with the Books Council of Wales about its ongoing budget needs.

- What considerations the Welsh Government has given to providing additional support to the Books Council of Wales, beyond what has been provided by the Creative Wales in 2024-25.
- What considerations the Welsh Government has given to ensuring there is sufficient financial support available to support magazine journalism in Wales.

I would welcome a response by no later than 19 June 2024.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Helgard Krause
Chief Executive
Books Council of Wales

23 May 2024

Re: New tender opportunity for new magazine in Wales

Dear Helgard

Thank you for your **response** on 29 April 2024 to our **letter**. The Committee considered your response at our meeting on 15 May 2024. We would welcome further clarity on the following points:

1. When it comes to the appeals process for unsuccessful applicants (that is, following the tendering process in 2023), you noted that the appeals were heard by the Chair of the Magazine Panel and the Head of the Publishing Development Department. Could you confirm what role, if any, either of those persons had in the initial decision-making for awarding grants?
2. When, and why, did the Books Council decide to retain a portion of money from the 2023 tender process? Why wasn't this funding (approx. £85,000 in 2024) distributed in 2023?
3. What evaluation process has the Books Council undertaken of its tendering processes over the past three years.
4. What effect have levels of Welsh Government funding in recent years had on the range and volume of services that the Books Council can fund?

I would welcome a response to our questions by 12 June 2024.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 3.3

From: David Leigh

Sent: Tuesday, May 14, 2024 10:26 AM

To: Griffiths, Lesley (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <lesley.griffiths@senedd.wales>

Cc: Jewell, Delyth (Aelod o'r Senedd | Member of the Senedd) <delyth.jewell@senedd.wales>;
lucy.frazer.mp@parliament.uk; David DAVIES <david.davies.mp@parliament.uk>

Subject: Funding cuts to Welsh Culture

Dear Lesley Griffiths

I write to express the hope that the funding cuts currently in prospect for Wales' heritage, museums and opera will be reversed without delay.

Welsh culture is one of Wales' fundamental strengths of which it can be hugely proud. Culture is what distinguishes this country. It is Wales' unique selling point, its brand, on which a significant part of its economy depends. Whatever other aspects of Welsh life have to be trimmed, our culture underlies everything; to cut it is to undermine its very foundations, to undermine Wales, its people and its future prosperity.

The proposed cuts are already presaging dire consequences for our national museums, for our libraries and information services, for our heritage services, the Royal Commission and Cadw, and therefore for our shared tangible and intangible heritage.

There are dire outcomes in prospect for Welsh National Opera, thanks to un-survivable cuts by the English and Welsh Arts Councils. The potential dismantling of one of Wales's finest national institutions would be devastating.

Please will you work urgently with the other relevant bodies to ensure that these cuts are completely reversed, not just reduced.

Yours sincerely,

Dr David Leigh, PhD, BSc, FSA, FIIC.

Copied today to Rt Hon David TC Davies MP, Secretary of State for Wales, Delyth Jewell MS, Chair Culture, etc. Committee, Rt Hon Lucy Frazer MP Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport

Also being copied shortly to Dafydd Rhys, Chief Executive, Arts Council of Wales, and Sir Nicholas Serota CH, Chair, Arts Council England.

Delyth Jewell MS
Plaid Cymru
Chair, Senedd Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International
Relations Committee
By email: Delyth.Jewell@senedd.wales

15 May 2024

Dear Ms Jewell,

Welsh National Opera

I hope this finds you well.

I'm writing in advance on the Senedd Culture Committee's meeting today to raise my severe concerns about the situation at Welsh National Opera, and request that you explore these issues further as a matter of urgency.

As the Regional Organiser for Wales and South West England at the Musicians' Union, I represent over 1,000 musicians in Wales, including the WNO Orchestra, and our members across the region are extremely worried about these proposals. Elizabeth Atheron's correspondence to you sets out the broad situation at WNO: as a result of cuts to their funding from the Arts Council Wales and Arts Council England the company is proposing dramatic and devastating changes.

I am concerned about the company as a whole, but particularly want to highlight the issues with the proposal to make the orchestra and chorus, who our colleagues at Equity support, part time with an associated pay cut of around 15%. It is unsustainable for our members to endure this reduction in income, and these proposals will also be hugely damaging for professional music in Wales due to the removal of stable, secure jobs. These cuts will effectively force musicians, who are already not well paid in comparison to other orchestral musicians, out of the company but without a redundancy payment.

I'm sure you understand, but not all decision makers do, that a musician can work in an orchestra for decades, invest tens of thousands of pounds in their training and instrument, but remain on a base salary of £30-35,000. We are working to try and achieve a base salary of £40,000 for orchestral players, but under the current proposals the lowest paid players at WNO will be on under £30,000.

Wales currently has two full-time professional orchestras (the same as Scotland), which provide work for many other freelance musicians, while the players also work in a range of other settings (like the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama). The WNO chorus is the only full-time professional chorus in Wales. Reducing that provision, which will inevitably affect WNO's artistic standards, would be a major reduction in our nation's cultural provision and status and hugely negative for Cardiff's position as a hub for professional music. The cuts will also affect provision to audiences across Wales through changes to WNO's touring schedule, such as a reduction of performances in Llandudno in their 2024/25 season.

I also want to highlight that, although these proposals are the result of cuts that have happened over the past 14 years and the last two years in particular, these specific proposals have only come to light in the last few months. Now they have, I think it's important to raise awareness of them given the long term effect they will have on a major national company - the largest arts organisation in Wales - and the broader arts ecosystem in Wales, including provision for audiences.

While I understand the difficult financial situation that Welsh Government and the Arts Council of Wales are in, now that we are seeing the consequences of the most recent cuts it is clear they, and the potential for further support, must be reconsidered. I understand the committee might be reluctant to interfere in specific decisions made by ACW, but this situation is ultimately the result of an overall lack of arts funding with a result that is now clearly hugely damaging for Wales and which can and must be addressed.


I am also concerned about the structural issues relating to how arts organisations in Wales and England are funded that are affecting competition for that funding, as well as awareness and discussion of significant proposals. The different statuses and relationships with government that arts organisations have are leading to significant differences in their ability to share the challenges they face and advocate for themselves, which now appears to be having a practical effect. It's important to note that these proposals at WNO will have clear and definite effects, such as reductions in performances, jobs, salaries, and work opportunities, with long-term consequences for the arts in Wales, even if they aren't as clear visually as buckets on the floor or paintings being taken down from displays.

We are asking the Welsh and UK Governments to work with both arts councils to find a way to resolve this situation for the sake of culture and music in Wales and much of England. This situation, and the proposed cuts at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, come while our sector is already facing major challenges such as the closure of St David's Hall, the cost of living crisis, and reduced job opportunities due to other cuts. Reducing the artistic foundation of Wales' largest arts organisation would be a further huge blow to musicians, audiences across Wales and England, and our national status.

WNO was founded by and for the people of Wales, and thousands of people have already signed our petition calling on the Welsh and UK governments and arts councils to protect WNO: <https://www.megaphone.org.uk/petitions/protect-welsh-national-opera>.

I hope you can help raise the problems at WNO and the need for a resolution with Welsh Government, and I would be happy to discuss these issues further with you and the committee.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Warnock

Regional Organiser, Wales and South West England
Musicians' Union

07792413248

andy.warnock@theMU.org

Delyth Jewell MS
Plaid Cymru
Chair, Senedd Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International
Relations Committee
By email: Delyth.Jewell@senedd.wales

30 May 2024

Dear Ms Jewell,

Welsh National Opera

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing in advance of the Committee's meeting next week with an update on my previous letter.

Firstly, I want to express my thanks to all the members of the Committee and your colleagues who showed their support for Welsh National Opera's protest outside the Senedd on 21 May, which we and our members really appreciate. The petition calling on the Arts Councils and governments in Wales and England to protect WNO has now received over 10,000 signatures, showing the level of concern about the future of the company.

I wanted to address a particular issue, which is that in recent discussions about WNO there have been frequent references to the need for governments to avoid interfering with funding decisions made by arms-length bodies like the Arts Councils. However, we strongly feel this should not be a barrier to Welsh Government working with the Arts Council of Wales, Arts Council England, and the UK Government to explore possible alternative solutions to the devastating cuts facing staff, particularly in the chorus and orchestra, at WNO. It's important to note that the Welsh Government sets the remit and budget of the Arts Council of Wales and that cuts to WNO and other organisations have occurred because of an overall lack of funding. The CEO of ACW noted back in January that their budget is now worth around 37% less in real terms than it was back in 2010, at c.£30m now compared to c.£35m then.¹

¹ <https://nation.cymru/news/arts-council-chief-calls-for-national-debate-on-value-of-the-arts-with-funding-cut-looming/>

Now that it has become clear that these reductions are leading to such significant and permanent changes at a national company that is structurally important for arts and culture in Wales there is a strong case for Welsh Government to step in with additional support. It would be entirely appropriate and possible for them to do so without undermining the broader system of arms-length bodies. The importance and influence of Welsh Government's work in the culture sector is demonstrated by the fact they are consulting on a culture strategy. As a specific example, WNO is a touring company and the costs of touring are currently causing problems across the culture sector so there is an extremely strong case for specific intervention in that area.

I am also concerned that the cuts to WNO, as well as the other issues facing our sector, are going to create further long-term problems. It has become clear in the last 18 months that the problems at St David's Hall should have been addressed on a national basis years earlier, and I am concerned that in the future we will look back at this moment in a similar way for classical music and musicians' careers in Wales more broadly if action isn't taken now.

On that note, since my previous letter it has become more apparent that cuts to Young RWCMD are a further threat to our members' work and music in Wales, as well as the provision of music and drama education for young people. As with Welsh National Opera, it seems there are Wales-specific funding issues relating to this, such as that RWCMD do not benefit from funding equivalent to the Music and Dance Scheme in England.²

Our sector is facing major challenges and we need Welsh Government and arms-length bodies to consider how they can offer further help. We wrote to the Cabinet Secretary on 10 May setting out our concerns about Welsh National Opera and seeking a meeting, and hope to receive a response to that letter with an invitation to meet soon.

Thank you again to you and the other members of the Committee for your support and considering these issues, and my colleagues and I would be happy to discuss these points further if that would be helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Warnock

Regional Organiser, Wales and South West England
Musicians' Union

07792413248

andy.warnock@theMU.org

² <https://www.gov.uk/music-dance-scheme>

Lesley Griffiths MS
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice
Welsh Government

21 May 2024

Welsh National Opera

Dear Lesley

We have recently received a **letter** from Elizabeth Atherton about Welsh National Opera, which has caused our Members a great deal of concern. The letter relates to the drastic changes which WNO is considering putting into effect as a result of funding cuts.

Ms. Atherton has organised a letter calling for more funding for the WNO, which states that:

"Without an urgent, emergency, bi-national funding package being secured, WNO will be forced to become part-time, which would obviously be devastating, both for those who work for the largest arts organisation that our nation has, and for Wales itself."

As you will be aware, budget reductions across the culture sector have had a significantly detrimental effect on many organisations. We are very concerned about what is being proposed by WNO. We would wish to know:

- What discussions the Welsh Government has undertaken with Welsh National Opera to secure the future of the company.
- What discussions the Welsh Government has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, or Arts Council Wales and Arts Council England, about any a cross-border funding agreement for Wales National Opera.

- What considerations the Welsh Government has given to providing additional support to Wales National Opera, beyond what's been provided by the Arts Council of Wales in 2024-25.

We are deeply concerned that the cuts being proposed across the arts and culture sectors could have a devastating effect on our national life, as well as our standing in the world. Owing to the significant level of interest from the public in this matter, we would be grateful to receive a prompt response to our queries.

I would welcome a response by no later than 19 June 2024.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair
Finance Committee

17 May 2024

Scrutiny of the Draft Budget 2024-25: Evidence provided by Welsh Government

Dear Peredur,

Thank you for your letter of 22 March 2024, and for the opportunity to comment on our experience of the Draft Budget process 2024-25. We discussed your letter at our meeting of 17 April 2024 and would like to offer the following views.

Quality of information provided

- 1.** In general, the Draft Budget papers we received relating to both the Welsh Language, and the Arts, Sport, and Culture policy areas were clear, comprehensive, and robust in providing the information we requested. The Welsh Government, however, needs to include information in its budget narrative and documentation about how spending across other government portfolios contributes to policy areas within the Committee's remit. This should be clear in terms of identified budget, outcomes, and measures. For example, the Minister for Education and Welsh Language acknowledged in oral evidence that the Cymraeg 2050 target was a cross-government initiative. Despite this, it was not possible to identify from the written evidence the wider impact of the budget cuts in other government departments on Welsh language policy development and interventions.
- 2.** On the other hand, our experience of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget papers relating to the International Relations policy area was extremely disappointing. We found a lack



of clarity and transparency in the documentation and ministerial written evidence provided. This impacted our ability to scrutinise the Draft Budget for International Relations effectively.

3. There were numerous issues identified. The forecast outturn for 2023-24 included an amount for in-year savings. However, there was no explanation of where the savings had come from or whether any planned activities, outcomes or outputs were not delivered as a result. A MEG-to-MEG transfer of funding outlined in the supporting written evidence did not appear on the Draft Budget proposal either as an outgoing or incoming transfer. Unhelpfully, we later established that the associated BEL had also been renamed without explanation. We were unable to fully reconcile allocated spending for activity referenced within the supporting written evidence as it was not always clearly attributed to a BEL. Further, a calculation of total allocated spending set out in the written evidence could not be reconciled with the Draft Budget proposal without generating a significant overspend. Given the need for clarification of these matters, it was regrettable that the First Minister declined our invitation to give oral evidence. This resulted in us having to make an urgent written request for further information.

4. The First Minister's second written submission also left questions unanswered which, again, hindered our scrutiny of International Relations spending. Whilst figures were provided that could be reconciled with the Draft Budget proposal, we were not provided with satisfactory explanations, nor the detailed information we requested. Between the first and the second written submission, the figure for the International Engagement budget was revised down. However, no revised breakdown was provided. As such, we were unable to establish where the budget cuts would fall. Despite our best efforts, the missing MEG to MEG transfer was not satisfactorily accounted for and this lack of transparency remains a cause for concern.

5. For us to be able to scrutinise effectively, it is essential that we can rely upon, understand, and analyse the information presented to us. However, the written evidence we received fell significantly below an acceptable standard. The discrepancies identified prevented us from considering information with confidence and presented barriers to our understanding of the Welsh Government's priorities.

Publication of annual reports

6. This year, the Draft Budget process has also been hampered by delays with Audit Wales. Consequently, annual reports and accounts relating to the arms-length bodies falling within the Committee's remit were not published in time to inform draft budget scrutiny. To counteract this, we undertook general scrutiny sessions with these bodies during the Autumn term. This allowed us to incorporate the views of stakeholders and gain a better understanding of the issues affecting the key policy areas in advance of the Draft Budget.

Review of the Budget Process Protocol

7. As you know, the time available for reporting on the outline and detailed budget proposals by committees has been severely limited by the late publication of the Draft Budget in recent years. These shortened timeframes undermine our ability to meaningfully scrutinise the impact of the Draft Budget on the policy areas within our remit. In our view, the Budget Process Protocol agreed in 2017 ("the Protocol"), needs to be revisited urgently. This may require a fundamental overhaul of the Protocol to enable a longer reporting timeframe. The Protocol anticipates that the UK Budget will usually be published after the Welsh Government has published its outline and detailed budget proposals. However, this has not been the case for several years. We are concerned that the Welsh Government seems to regard as normal business the absolute minimum timeframes set out for budget scrutiny in the Protocol when these should only apply in exceptional circumstances. We urge the Welsh Government not to consider itself beholden to the UK Government and to proceed with budget setting so as to enable and ensure the integrity of the Welsh Parliament's scrutiny process.

8. I hope that these reflections on our experience of scrutinising the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2024-25 will be of assistance in driving forward improvements for future years.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair
Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport and International
Relations Committee

14 May 2024

Dear Delyth,

During the Welsh Government's evidence session on the **Inquiry into the challenges facing the creative industries workforce in Wales** on 25 May 2023, a commitment was made to share the Creative Wales Industry Survey 2023 report with the committee when available. I am writing to confirm, the full report is now available and can be found on the [Welsh Government website](#). The key findings from the survey are set out below.

Creative Wales Industry Survey 2023

The survey was completed by 639 respondents, with a quarter (26%) from both music and digital sectors, 27% from publishing and 21% from the screen industry. Over a third (37%) of respondents were self-employed or freelancers, and 41% were company owners or directors. This survey follows the [baseline survey](#) that was conducted in 2022, allowing comparisons to be drawn between years and helping to identify trends over time.

The findings highlight that Creative Wales plays a key role in supporting the sector, particularly around the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic for businesses and freelancers.

The main findings include:

- The creative industries reported mixed experiences with regards to business performance, particularly in terms of changes in turnover – a quarter of business saw an increase compared to last financial year, just over a quarter (27%) saw a decrease and just under half (48%) reported no change.
- Changes in turnover were attributed to the ongoing impacts of Covid-19, which have been positive for some, whilst negative for others.
- Increasing profitability, improving marketing opportunities, and being more sustainable are the top three key priorities amongst the sectors. Growing the workforce is less of a priority compared to 2022.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:
0300 0604400

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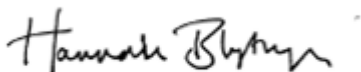
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

- Respondents are more confident than not about running their business profitably next year, although confidence is overall slightly lower compared to 2022. The digital sector showed the most confidence about running a profitable business and the music sector the least. Freelancers are less confident than employers, employees and those who are self-employed.
- 31% of freelancers faced difficulties in finding jobs for certain roles. Those in the screen and digital sectors reported more difficulties (52% and 38%, respectively) compared to freelancers in the Music sector (6%).
- 8% of businesses experienced challenges with staff retention. 16% of businesses encountered difficulties in filling specific roles, with the top three factors thought to be due to people moving away from Wales for employment, skills gaps, and competition from other companies.
- Skills and training remain an issue for both businesses and freelancers, with the most common areas of skills gaps reported to be sector-specific skills (35%), technological skills (32%) and Welsh language ability (26%).
- Similar to 2022, the industry would most like to see further financial support, increased opportunities for networking, and improved access and availability of business support and advice from Creative Wales.
- Welsh language ability is consistent with 2022 findings, with 18% of respondents being fluent in Welsh and 33% able to speak a few words. The Screen industry shows the highest fluency (26%), while the Digital sector shows the lowest ability levels.

The findings from the survey, which we aim to conduct on an annual basis, provide valuable information to Creative Wales that will inform decisions around how the sector can best be supported. The next round of data collection is scheduled for Autumn 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Hannah Blythyn AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Minister for Social Partnership

MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

APRIL 2024

INWARD VISITS

- 12 April **Visit to Wales by the Japanese Ambassador to the UK**
 The First Minister met with the Ambassador at St Fagans to celebrate 'Hanami' as part of the Sakura Tree Project. A short bi-lateral meeting was held covering the 2025 Wales in Japan year, the World EXPO and Wales-Japan relations.

- 22 April **Visit by Ukrainian Culture Foundation**
 The Counsel General met with a delegation from the Ukrainian Culture Foundation who were visiting Wales with the support of the British Council. The main item of discussion was the Cultural Mobility Forum that was due to take place in North Wales on 25-26 April.

- 30 April **Visit to Wales by King Letsie III of Lesotho**
 The First Minister met with King Letsie III of Lesotho during his visit to Wales. The delegation visited Wales to explore Wales' experience of progressing renewable energy, as well as reaffirming existing links spanning 40 years.

OUTWARD VISITS

Nil

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations
Committee**

Vaughan Gething MS
First Minister
Welsh Government

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24 May 2024

**Wales-Ireland relations: Progress report on shared learning for the Ireland-
Wales Forum 2024**

Dear Vaughan

At the end of last year, the former First Minister gave us a **copy of a report** which related to the secondment of a Welsh Government official to the Irish Government's Department for Foreign Affairs. The report set out what had been learned as a result of that scheme. As you will be aware, this secondment was a commitment captured in the **Shared Statement and Joint Action Plan** between the Welsh and Irish governments.

The aforementioned report notes that the secondment succeeded in increasing engagement between Welsh and Irish Government officials. It further proposes that joint work will be undertaken over the coming year in a number of policy areas. The report also notes that a progress report will be prepared in time for the Ireland Wales Forum in 2024.

I would be grateful if you could share a copy of the progress report with the Committee in due course. This would assist us to better understand the progress made in this area, and it would be in keeping with our report's recommendations to improve transparency, including as it relates to the Ireland-Wales Forum.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing cooperation with the Committee's work in championing the unique relationship between our two countries.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Delyth Jewell'.

Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Arts Infopoint UK

23 May 2024

The Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee is undertaking an inquiry looking at **Culture and the new relationship with the European Union**.

It is now more than three years since the post-Brexit arrangements were introduced for working and trading between the UK, and the EU and new restrictions on touring artists have been widely reported. The Committee is considering the effects being felt by the UK's exit from the EU on the culture sector and is exploring issues such as:

- the impact of the new relationship on artists and creative workers touring and working cross-border (including touring and working in Wales);
- the impact of new trading arrangements relating to cultural activity;
- the availability of guidance and support for the sector relating to the new relationship between the UK and EU;
- the impact on access to funding programmes and networks; and
- any changes to the UK-EU relationship that might improve cross-border working for the culture sector.

We would be interested to hear your views and would like to invite you to give written evidence for this inquiry.

We would be grateful to receive a written contribution from you by Friday 5 July 2024.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Niamh Smyth TD
Cathaoirleach
Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media
Houses of the Oireachtas

23 May 2024

Dear Niamh,

The Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee is undertaking an inquiry looking at **Culture and the new relationship with the European Union**.

It is now more than three years since the post-Brexit arrangements were introduced for working and trading between the UK and the EU, and new restrictions on touring artists have been widely reported. The Committee is considering the effects seen by the UK's exit from the EU on the culture sector, and is exploring issues such as:

- the impact of the new relationship on artists and creative workers touring and working cross-border (including touring and working in Wales);
- the impact of new trading arrangements relating to cultural activity;
- the availability of guidance and support for the sector relating to the new relationship between the UK and EU;
- the impact on access to funding programmes and networks; and
- any changes to the UK-EU relationship that might improve cross-border working for the culture sector.

In the report of our inquiry on Wales-Ireland relations, we committed to leading the way in shaping inter-committee and inter-parliamentary relations with the Oireachtas. This included considering how we can lead and champion Wales-Ireland interparliamentary work in the Senedd. With that in mind,

and given our shared interest in culture, the Committee thought to bring our inquiry to your attention. We would be interested to hear your views, in particular on the effects being felt by Irish artists and cultural workers. We would like to invite you to give written evidence to assist us in this inquiry.

We would be grateful to receive any written contribution from you by Friday 5 July 2024.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Jeremy Miles MS
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy, and Welsh Language
Lesley Griffiths
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice
Welsh Government

22 May 2024

Culture and the new relationship with the European Union

Dear Jeremy and Lesley,

Thank you for appearing at the Committee's **meeting on 15 May 2024**, to give evidence for our inquiry on **Culture and the new relationship with the European Union**. We were grateful for the evidence you provided during our session, and we are writing to request some additional information.

1. During the meeting, Jeremy spoke about having to use every possible opportunity to promote the Welsh Government's priorities for the EU-UK Trade and Co-operation Agreement. To assist our understanding of the degree of contact there has been between ministers and officials where such discussions have taken place, we would be grateful to receive the following information:
 - A breakdown of the inter-governmental meetings (including the inter-ministerial group and bi-lateral meetings), and meetings between officials where these issues have been raised.
 - An outline of what was discussed at each meeting.
2. Lesley said that, at the inaugural Culture and Creative Industries Inter-ministerial Group meeting, "*...it had become very apparent, very quickly that there are different priorities between the four Governments*". Please could you outline what the Welsh Government's

priorities are for supporting the cultural sector post-Brexit, as well as how they differ from other parts of the UK?

3. If, during the upcoming implementation review, the opportunity arises to re-visit the arrangements set out in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, what would the Welsh Government's priorities be?
4. How does the Welsh Government think the issues faced by the cultural sector should be addressed in the short, medium, and long term?

We look forward to your response by 20 June 2024.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Sarah Murphy MS
Minister for Social Partnership
Welsh Government

22 May 2024

Culture and the new relationship with the European Union

Dear Sarah,

You will be aware that the Committee has been undertaking an inquiry on **Culture and the new relationship with the European Union**.

Further to the Committee's **meeting on 15 May 2024**, at which Jeremy Miles MS and Lesley Griffith MS gave evidence for the inquiry, we would be interested to understand your views on the following:

- What steps has the Welsh Government undertaken to explore opportunities for re-joining Creative Europe (and any other relevant EU funding programmes)?

We look forward to your response by 20 June 2024.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 6

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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