

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

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 3 – Senedd

Meeting date: 26 September 2024

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Lleu Williams

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Hybrid

Pre-meeting registration

(09.15 – 09.30)

Public

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

2 Paper(s) to note

(09.30)

2.1 Charging for exhibitions

(Pages 1 – 4)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Association of Independent Museums: Follow-up evidence after the evidence session on 6 June 2024 – 28 June 2024

Correspondence from the National Library of Wales: Follow-up evidence after the evidence session on 6 June 2024 – 4 July 2024 (English Translation by Senedd Commission)



2.2 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25

(Pages 5 – 11)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education: Requesting an outline of the Cabinet Secretary's discussion and any actions arising from a meeting with the Principal of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama regarding closure of Junior Conservatoire – 17 July 2024

Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Education: Providing an update on the closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama – 11 September 2024

Letter from the Musicians' Union: Providing an update on the Welsh National Opera – 19 September 2024

2.3 National contemporary art gallery

(Pages 12 – 20)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip: Update on the progress and any actions taken on the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales – 26 July 2024

Annex 1

2.4 Welsh Government international relations

(Pages 21 – 34)

Attached Documents:

Ministerial International Engagement – July 2024

Letter to the Petitions Committee: Update on matters relating to Petition P-06-1387 Provide humanitarian aid to Gaza following the Committee's evidence session on international relations with the First Minister on 19 June 2024 – 22 July 2024

Response from the First Minister: Providing further information following the First Minister's attendance at the Committee's annual scrutiny session of International Relations on 19 June 2024 – 1 August 2024

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Transport and North Wales:

Requesting further information on the Welsh Government's International Strategy and Cardiff Wales Airport – 20 August 2024
Ministerial International Engagement – August 2024

2.5 Books Council of Wales magazine funding model

(Pages 35 – 39)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Minister for Social Partnership: Providing further information on the Creative Skills Fund and the cuts to Books Council of Wales's funding – 5 August 2024

Letter to Books Council of Wales: Inviting further comments regarding concerns around funding for magazines in Wales – 12 August 2024

Response from Books Council of Wales: Providing further clarification relating to concerns around funding for magazines in Wales – 17 September 2024

2.6 Inter-Institutional Relations Agreement

(Page 40)

Attached Documents:

Letter copied for information from the Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution & Cabinet Office to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee: Welsh Government's attendance at the British-Irish Council (BIC) Summit held in Isle of Man on 20 and 21 June 2024 – 5 August 2024

2.7 Impact of funding reductions for culture and sport

(Page 41)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Creu Cymru: Raising concerns about Caerphilly County Council's proposals to withdraw subsidy for Blackwood Miners' Institute from the end of December 2024 – 7 August 2024

2.8 Culture and the new relationship with the EU

(Pages 42 – 55)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Clerk to the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media, Houses of the Oireachtas: Regarding the Committee's

inquiry on culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 5 July 2024

Letter to Creative Ireland: Inviting views on the Committee's inquiry into culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 9 August 2024

Letter to the Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Government of Ireland: Inviting views on the Committee's inquiry into culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 9 August 2024

Letter to The National Campaign for the Arts: Inviting views on the Committee's inquiry into culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 9 August 2024

Letter to Arts Council Ireland: Inviting views on the Committee's inquiry into culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 9 August 2024

Response from Arts Council Ireland: Providing information in relation to the Committee's inquiry into culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 5 September 2024

2.9 Wales–Ireland relations

(Pages 56 – 58)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Llywydd and Chair of Business Committee: Cross committee exchange visit to Oireachtas – 12 July 2024

2.10 Scrutiny of the Arts Council of Wales

(Pages 59 – 67)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Arts Council of Wales: Providing an update following general scrutiny – 12 July 2024

English Language Theatre Review – Terms of Reference

2.11 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2025–26

(Pages 68 – 70)

Attached Documents:

Letter copied for information from the Finance Committee to the Cabinet

Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Cabinet Office: Welsh Government
Budget Timetable 2025–26 – 11 July 2024

2.12 Scrutiny of Accounts: Amgueddfa Cymru 2021–22

(Page 71)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee:
Requesting to be kept informed of its work relating to Scrutiny of Accounts:
Amgueddfa Cymru 2021–22 – 21 August 2024

2.13 Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill

(Pages 72 – 76)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Children, Young People and Education Committee: Invitation
to participate in Stage 1 scrutiny of the Welsh Language and Education
(Wales) Bill – 5 August 2024

Response to the Children, Young People and Education Committee:
Confirming participation in Stage 1 scrutiny of the Welsh Language and
Education (Wales) Bill – 13 September 2024

2.14 Welsh Government consultation on the draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024–2030

(Pages 77 – 83)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief
Whip: Providing the Committee's response to the Welsh Government's
consultation on Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024 to 2030 – 3
September 2024

Letter copied for information from National Trust Cymru to the Welsh
Government: Response to the Welsh Government's consultation on Draft
Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024 to 2030 – 28 August 2024

2.15 Public service broadcasting in Wales

(Pages 84 – 86)

Attached Documents:

The Committee's response to Ofcom's consultation on Channel 4 licence renewal – August 2024

2.16 Ministerial scrutiny sessions

(Pages 87 – 90)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip: Follow up further to the former Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice's appearance at the Committee's meeting on 10 July 2024 for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's culture activity – 9 September 2024

2.17 Allegations surrounding the Welsh Rugby Union

(Pages 91 – 93)

Attached Documents:

Correspondence from the Welsh Rugby Union: Providing Welsh Rugby Union's audited annual report for the 2023 financial year – 25 July 2024

2.18 Financial position of Wales Rugby League

(Pages 94 – 106)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip: Financial position of Wales Rugby League – 9 September 2024

Letter forwarding for information from Wales Rugby League to the Welsh Government

Wales Rugby League Men's Partnership Opportunities

Chair Person's update – June 2024

3 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from items 4, 6, 7, and 11 of this meeting and for the whole of the meeting scheduled for 2 October 2024

(09.30)

Private

4 Culture and the new relationship with the European Union: Consideration of key issues (2)

(09.30 – 10.30)

(Pages 107 – 135)

Attached Documents:

Key issues

Break

(10.30 – 10.40)

Public

5 Impact of funding reductions for culture and sport: Evidence session with the National Library of Wales (1)

(10.40 – 11.40)

(Pages 136 – 161)

Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Librarian

Ashok Ahir, President of Board of Trustees

[Impact of funding reductions for culture and sport consultation responses](#)

Consultation response from the National Library of Wales (English Translation
by Senedd Commission)

Research brief

Private

6 Impact of funding reductions for culture and sport: Consideration of evidence

(11.40 – 11.50)

7 Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill: Consideration of rapporteur approach

(11.50 – 12.00)

(Pages 162 – 163)

Attached Documents:

Approach paper

Lunch break

(12.00 – 12.30)

Public

8 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the first item of the meeting scheduled for 9 October 2024

(12.30)

9 Impact of funding reductions for culture and sport: Evidence session with Arts Council of Wales (2)

(12.30 – 13.30)

(Pages 164 – 169)

Dafydd Rhys, Chief Executive Officer

Attached Documents:

Consultation response from Arts Council of Wales

Break

(13.30 – 13.40)

10 Impact of funding reductions for culture and sport: Evidence session with Welsh National Opera (3)

(13.40 – 14.40)

Christopher Barron, Interim General Director

Private

11 Impact of funding reductions for culture and sport: Consideration of evidence

(14.40 – 14.50)

Agenda Item 2.1



AIM
c/o National Waterways Museum
South Pier Road
Ellesmere Port
CH65 4FW
0333 305 8060
info@aim-museums.co.uk

28th June 2024

Dear Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to write with some follow-up evidence after the evidence session on 6th June 2024.

I appreciate that most of the questions asked were directed to Amgueddfa Cymru but have added some additional perspectives which may be helpful.

I have also, as promised in the session, provided some additional information on gift aid.

1. *How do you balance the desire to generate income from temporary exhibitions with the desire to increase the diversity of audiences?*

As set out during the evidence session (with more detail available in our recent report on charging which can be accessed in English and Welsh here <https://aim-museums.co.uk/research-admissions-pricing-policy/>) it is important not to see income generation and audience diversity as in conflict. Admissions policies should be thought about carefully in accordance with the visitor goals for that particular exhibition, including whether it is appropriate to offer incentives or concessions for particular audiences.

2. *Is any specific assistance or permission needed from the Welsh Government to help you run temporary exhibitions?*

While this question is best answered by the National Museum, the Committee may wish to explore with them whether the need to self-insure incoming loans is a barrier to temporary exhibitions. Non-national museums in the UK can access the Government Indemnity Scheme which indemnifies object loans when conditions are met, giving institutions the confidence to agree loans of valuable objects; however, national museums are not eligible for this scheme and are expected to cover any damages or losses themselves.

Gift aid

During the session I was unsure whether tickets to temporary exhibitions could attract gift aid in the same way as general admission to a museum. Having reviewed the guidance and the treatment of special exhibition ticketing by London nationals such as the British Museum and Science Museum, I can confirm that temporary exhibitions tickets are eligible and being gift aided by other institutions. This means that where visitors are offered the opportunity to add at least a 10% donation to the standard ticket price and do so, gift aid

can be claimed on the full price plus donation amount. Any institution wishing to utilise gift aid in their admissions policies should take their own tax advice to ensure their ticketing structure is within the scheme rules.

I hope this response is helpful and would be delighted to assist the Committee further in any way. Thank you for the opportunity to provide evidence on behalf of the Association of Independent Museums.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Ollerhead
Director
Association of Independent Museums

These are the National Library's responses to the questions below.

Regards,
Rhodri

1. How do you balance the desire to generate income from temporary exhibitions with the desire to increase the diversity of audiences?

Increasing the diversity of audiences is a higher priority for us at the Library than the desire to generate income from exhibitions. We see exhibitions as an important way of attracting audiences to the Library, and we also see them as an effective way of drawing attention to the Library's collections and other services. Visitors to the Library often contribute to the income generated by the Pen Dinas Café and the shop, and we consistently seek to meet exhibition costs through grant applications.

2. Is any specific assistance or permission needed from the Welsh Government to help you run temporary exhibitions?

Welsh Government support or permission can be very relevant in the specific circumstances of hosting temporary exhibitions. In particular, this is key for facilitating and supporting – and in some circumstances, financially supporting – the essential arrangements associated with very significant and/or high-value loans.

3. How does the current level of Welsh Government funding impact on your ability to host temporary exhibitions?

The Library has made difficult decisions in order to tackle the challenging financial situation, which is affecting everyone. At the moment, we can continue to devote ourselves to hosting temporary exhibitions within the current financial constraints, and we are working hard to attract grants and external sponsorship to ensure that the offer is of a high standard and is attractive to a variety of audiences. We are also using our digitisation expertise to provide a special range of digital displays online via our website. If the situation were to change, with additional funding being provided, this could provide the Library with an opportunity to invest to enhance its ambition and upgrade its exhibitions programme.

4. What, if anything, have you done to explore well connected walking routes from public transport and other visitor attractions to the National Museum, Cardiff?

Although it is not directly relevant to the Library, increasing accessibility is extremely important to us. Having a bus service that passes the Library (and the University) is

very important. And any measures that support active travel and public transport, and that help to connect attractions such as the Library, are to be greatly welcomed.

5. How are you using digital media to raise the profile of your exhibitions?

Use of the digital media is key to raising the profile of exhibitions. The current major exhibition at the Library – *Idyll and Industry* (Canaletto) – is a good example. Thanks to external funding, obtained through the National Gallery in London, we have been able to promote the exhibition widely on social media. This has been very effective in terms of raising its profile. The element of joint promotion with the National Gallery on its social media channels has also proven to be very effective. As part of the programme, we also include in-person and online talks about the exhibition. Another element of using digital technology is that we have added audio description provision to 10 of the paintings in the exhibition, and we are keen to develop this as part of our emphasis on improving accessibility.

Lynne Neagle MS
Cabinet Secretary for Education
Welsh Government

17 July 2024

Closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

Dear Lynne,

Thank you for your **letter** (dated 10 July 2024). We are grateful to you for a swift response to our initial letter, which we discussed at our meeting on 17 July 2024. We were disappointed that we weren't able to meet you today, as we had hoped to explore this issue further – we do, however, understand why the scrutiny session could not go ahead.

In your letter, you said that you had met the Principal of the College. We would welcome an outline of this discussion and any actions arising from the meeting. We would also like to know:

- What assessment has the Welsh Government made about the impact of the closure of Young RWMCD on the higher-level provision of music and drama training available to learners in Wales? We would be grateful if this could include how the College is considering how to align activity with the National Plan for Music Education, and whether this would deliver access to the higher level of training and education that young people currently access at the College.
- Why Wales does not have a grant scheme in place to support young people to attend junior music college or a youth conservatoire, like the Music and Dance Scheme in England.
- What is the geographical distribution of students who attend the programme at the College?

- What discussions have taken place with the Higher Education Funding Council (or Medr) to allocate funding to support a junior conservatoire or similar programme?
- What discussions have taken place with the Higher Education Funding Council (or Medr) to provide a form of bridging loan, or a time-limited grant to the College while it considers how to make the youth programme sustainable in the long term?

Given how quickly this matter is progressing, I would be grateful for a swift response to our questions.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Ein cyf/Our ref: PO239

Delyth Jewell MS

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

11 September 2024

Dear Delyth

Thank you for your letter of 17 July regarding the closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD).

As mentioned previously, I had a constructive discussion with the College Principal regarding the College's commitment to youth music services. Going forward, it was agreed that we will continue to engage on this issue, and I note that on 19 July RWCMD communicated the outcome of Young RWCMD, and made a public announcement on its website: [Outcome of Young RWCMD consultation](#)

I understand the College is looking seriously at how provision can be shaped to meet the changing needs of Wales, to invest in talent and provide national and inclusive services. The need to look at a national approach and inclusive provision was also a theme of my meeting with the College Principal.

Turning to the specific questions raised by the Committee:

What assessment has the Welsh Government made about the impact of the closure of Young RWCMD on the higher-level provision of music and drama training available to learners in Wales? We would be grateful if this could include how the College is considering how to align activity with the National Plan for Music Education, and whether this would deliver access to the higher level of training and education that young people currently access at the College

Since this was a proposal from and decision by the College, the Welsh Government was not able to undertake a full assessment of its impact. The impact of the closure will of course be considered as part of future Welsh Government decisions.

The National Music Service was established by the Welsh Government in 2022, to deliver on a Programme for Government commitment for every child and young person from the age of 3 to 16 to benefit from opportunities to engage in and experience music-making activities.

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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 Service's work programme, as set out in the [National Plan for Music Education](#), covers a range of strands, including work with key bodies such as the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and the Arts Council of Wales to support learner progression in music (the link between the National Music Service and the College is strengthened through the role of the Principal of the College as Chair of the National Music Service's Advisory Board).

The overriding focus of the National Music Service's remit is, of necessity, to support music education in schools (through provision such as 'First Experiences' and 'Music Pathways'). It was not the intention, in establishing the National Music Service in 2022, that the Service should provide higher-level provision in music training, of the type offered by music conservatoires. The National Music Service is fully funded by the Welsh Government, via grant to the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA).

Why Wales does not have a grant scheme in place to support young people to attend junior music college or a youth conservatoire, like the Music and Dance Scheme in England.

There has never been a scheme in Wales and there is no funding available for such a scheme in the Welsh Government's current budget.

What is the geographical distribution of students who attend the programme at the College?

In response to an update from the Welsh Government, the College provided fresh data related specifically to its Young Music Services. The latest data set out (provided on 22 July 2024) reflect the final numbers of students attending the College weekly Young RWCMD Music Services. The early data set (provided on 2 July 2024) was extracted early in May at the start of the Summer term.

While there are no significant movements or substantial changes, I thought it would be helpful to present the latest picture to the Committee:

Young Music Services (as of 22 July 2024)

- 57% (59%) of Music students are from the Cardiff area – increases to 69% (72%) when you include Newport and Bridgend
- 15% (14%) from West Wales
- 2% (no change) Rhondda Cynon Taff
- No students from North Wales and no students from Powys – (1 student from North Wales in earlier dataset)

*Information in brackets relate to earlier data provided by the College on 2 July 2024.

Young Drama Services (as of 2 July 2024)

- 66% from Cardiff area – increases to 79% when you include Newport and Bridgend
- 11% from Rhondda Cynon Taff
- 7% from West Wales
- 1% Mid Wales
- None in the North of Wales

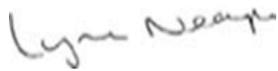
What discussions have taken place with the Higher Education Funding Council (or Medr) to allocate funding to support a junior conservatoire or similar programme?

The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) is unable to provide funding for the junior conservatoire at RWCMD as the provision is not higher education. The Committee will be aware that HEFCW was dissolved on 31 July 2024 and has been superseded by Medr which has a wider responsibility for tertiary education in Wales.

What discussions have taken place with the Higher Education Funding Council (or Medr) to provide a form of bridging loan, or a time-limited grant to the College while it considers how to make the youth programme sustainable in the long term?

Medr continues to engage with the RWCMD to monitor the impact of the decision to close the junior conservatoire on their higher education provision, and on their commitments to widening access to their degree programmes to students from backgrounds under-represented in Higher Education, as part of Medr's responsibilities across the whole of the tertiary education sector in Wales.

Yours Sincerely,



Lynne Neagle AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Secretary for Education

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

19 September 2024

Dear Ms Jewell,

Update on Welsh National Opera (WNO)

I'm writing in advance of the Committee's next meeting on 26 September to give you and the other members of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee a brief update on the situation at WNO.

You will probably be aware that MU members in the WNO Orchestra and Equity members in the Chorus will be taking Action Short of Strike at WNO performances this autumn, beginning this weekend on the opening night of the 2024/25 Season, Saturday 21 September at Wales Millennium Centre. Members of the Committee are very welcome to come and talk to our members about their situation and our campaign that evening or on another date.

That action is taking place because we have not yet been able to come to an agreement with WNO about the future of the WNO Orchestra (and the Chorus for Equity). In fact, if anything our concerns about the management of WNO have deepened in recent weeks and we feel strongly that the funding, management, and oversight of nationally significant cultural organisations like WNO needs to be reviewed, particularly following the issues at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama and St David's Hall. I outlined some thoughts in relation to this issue in the MU's response to the Committee's consultation on the impact of funding reductions for culture and sport.

We also continue to have related concerns about the draft Welsh Government Priorities for Culture. These include:

- Insufficient emphasis in the draft strategy's priorities and ambitions on high-quality, professional cultural provision and excellence, including easily accessible professional cultural experiences
- Insufficient emphasis on the long-term strategic support and investment that is needed to sustain major cultural organisations
- Excessive focus on heritage and insufficient emphasis on the performing arts
- Excessive focus on volunteers and insufficient emphasis on the need to sustain secure employment on fair terms, based on social partnership, for professionals in the culture sector
- Insufficient emphasis on sustaining cultural venues
- The omission of the creative industries supported by Creative Wales

- A lack of recognition that the culture sector does not just feel fragile and vulnerable, but is experiencing significant problems right now, such as those at WNO, RWCMD, the National Music Service, St David's Hall, and Blackwood Miner's Institute
- The omission of an ambition to support and enable the best possible management of cultural organisations

We were very pleased by the announcement of £5m of additional Welsh Government funding for culture, sport, and heritage in the last few weeks, including £1.5m for ACW, but are now concerned about how this money will be used and how far it will go given the scale of the problems at WNO and across the rest of the sector. We feel strongly that this money must be used to safeguard the full-time, employed, unionised jobs that are currently at risk in the WNO Orchestra and Chorus and that are rare across the arts in Wales.

I hope this update is helpful and thank you for your work on culture across Wales. Please do let me know if you'd like any further information or to discuss these issues with me or our members.

Diolch yn fawr,



Andy Warnock

Regional Organiser, Wales and South West England
Musicians' Union

02920 456 585

wswe@theMU.org

Agenda Item 2.3

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chyfiawnder
Cymdeithasol, y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice, Trefnydd and
Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref JH/PO/195/24

Delyth Jewell MS
Chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament

26 July 2024

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 24 June, addressed to the former Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice. You have requested an update on the progress and any actions taken on the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales since the former Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism's previous update, following the completion of the CCWLSIR Inquiry.

You have asked for the CCWLSIR Committee to be provided further information in the following areas:

1. Timeline and Milestones: Information on any key milestones achieved and the projected timeline for ongoing and future actions.
2. Challenges and Adjustments: Any challenges encountered in the implementation process and adjustments made to address these challenges.
3. Project Timeline: Are the capital investment works relating to the dispersed network of galleries still on track to be completed at the end of March 2025?
4. Business Case and Decision-Making: We anticipate that the full business case for the National Contemporary Art Gallery has now been submitted to the Welsh Government by the delivery partners, and key decisions around the selection of the anchor site and the operating model post-2025 have been made. Can you confirm the status of these submissions and decisions?
5. Revenue Funding: Please provide an estimate of the ongoing revenue funding required to operate the dispersed network of galleries.

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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.

6. Gallery Space: Now that the galleries participating in the dispersed network have been determined, please advise how much new public exhibition space is being created by this element of the proposal?
7. Anchor Site Proposals: Have the proposals for the anchor site been finalised and can you share the site that has been selected with the Committee? Please also provide provisional cost estimates related to establishing and operating the anchor site.
8. Brand Development: Please provide an update on the development of branding for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales. Please also share with us what this branding presence will look like and what it is intended to convey.
9. Environmental Sustainability: Has a stand-alone strategy, or statement of principles regarding the environmental sustainability of the Gallery been developed that can be shared with the Committee?

I attach an annex containing updates on these areas. This update should provide a clear picture of how a number of key areas have been taken forward, demonstrating the clear progress made in delivering the model.

I will continue to provide updates of progress as the project continues to develop and deliver the NCAGW gallery network across Wales.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Hutt". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line above the first name.

Jane Hutt AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol,
y Trefnydd a'r Prif Chwip
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip - Response to Queries Received from the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee relating to the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales

Introduction

This paper provides evidence to inform the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee inquiry on plans for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales. It provides evidence against the nine key areas set by the committee.

1. Timeline and Milestones: Information on any key milestones achieved and the projected timeline for ongoing and future actions.

The governance structure for the Project Board delivering the dispersed model was strengthened through the recruitment of independent board members, with specific expertise of capital projects as well as an artist representative. The Project Board maintains four sub-groups, each with its own Terms of Reference. The structure includes separate Stakeholder and Communications Subgroups which oversee and supports activity around wider stakeholder engagement, which has been a priority activity following approval of the full business case (FBC).

The FBC for the dispersed model of the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales was submitted at the end of January 2024. The subsequent Gateway 3 review of the FBC culminated in an amber/green rating showing the project's readiness to progress. Within the development and delivery of the full business case, a future operating model (post March 25) was agreed by the Project Board, with transition into the future model being managed as part of the ongoing operational delivery phase of the project.

Digitisation of the current collections at Amgueddfa Cymru and National Library Wales has continued to make good progress. By the beginning July 2024 over 41,577 images have been digitised. Celf ar Y Cyd has been accessed by 22,544 users with 133,568 page views. This work will continue at pace to March 2025, with the digital platform fully integrated into a dedicated National Contemporary Art Gallery Wales website, by January 2025.

A formal announcement of Welsh Government investment in the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales dispersed network was made in March 2024. This was timed to coincide with one of the first National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales exhibitions. The *Teulu/Family* exhibition at the Aberystwyth Arts Centre, curated in conjunction with four families local to Aberystwyth, was the first activity to be delivered as part of the dispersed model of the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales, through which art will be displayed in galleries closer to where people live and work to improve access to contemporary art and the national collection.

Y Tyrrau Mawr by Bedwyr Williams is being loaned from Amgueddfa Cymru from the national collection and is part of a show opening at Plas Glyn y Weddw on 20 July, together with new work and a performance by the artist. This will then be touring to Newport Museum and Gallery for October. Newport Museum and Art Gallery will run an outreach programme alongside this, allowing diverse communities and schools from across the city to engage with the artwork as part of their approach to widening access to contemporary art and the national collection, through the dispersed model.

The capital investment programme at Plas Glyn y Weddw will be completed by the end of December 2024 and by February 2025, seven of the nine galleries will have completed their capital works with a return to business as usual by the same date. All galleries will have completed their capital investment programme by March 2025. Transition plans around the agreed, post March 2025, future operating model will be completed by January 2025 with the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales Dispersed Model fully operationally from April 25 onwards.

2. Challenges and Adjustments: Any challenges encountered in the implementation process and adjustments made to address these challenges.

The overall project is being delivered in a relatively compressed timeframe in its current operational phase. This meant the time-period allowing for completion of the Outline Business Case (OBC) and Full Business Case (FBC), and the period between Gateway 2 and Gateway 3 reviews was shortened. To address some of the challenges arising from this, additional capital funding was made available to increase project capacity for a limited time-period in Q3 of the 2023-24 financial year.

Delays in moving from the OBC to the FBC phase has resulted in the delivery timeframe for the capital investment programme in the dispersed gallery network being condensed from a planned 24-month programme to 15 months. To address this, project management capacity across the project, including to the dispersed gallery network has been increased using the available budget.

The impact of the 2024-25 10.5% cut to budgets for the Arts Council of Wales, National Library of Wales and National Museums Wales have been in evidence from early January 2024. This has placed additional strain on the capacity of these three organisations as delivery partners for the project. Strengthening support from the SRO and via the wider Project Board has been part of the mitigation approach to manage this challenge.

3. Project Timeline: Are the capital investment works relating to the dispersed network of galleries still on track to be completed at the end of March 2025?

As outlined, the delivery timeframe for the capital investment programme in the dispersed gallery network was condensed from a planned 24-month programme to 15 months, due to wider project delays. However, completion of the agreed programme is currently on target to be completed by March 2025.

Upon completion, the unique national level model for National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales will deliver its target aim of providing a more equitable geographical spread and a higher degree of access to contemporary art and the national collection for people in all parts of Wales.

4. Business Case and Decision-Making: We anticipate that the full business case for the National Contemporary Art Gallery has now been submitted to the Welsh Government by the delivery partners, and key decisions around the selection of the anchor site and the operating model post-2025 have been made. Can you confirm the status of these submissions and decisions?

The FBC for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales Dispersed Model was submitted at the end of January 2024 receiving an Amber/Green rating. The Gateway 3 Review in February 2024 confirmed “the FBC is fit for purpose against the Terms of Reference set for this Review”.

An operating model post 2025 was included as part of the Full Business Case. The operating model was agreed by the Project Board at its meeting in January 2025.

The agreed operating model has identified National Museums Wales/Amgueddfa Cymru as taking lead ownership of the model post March 2025 and in doing so, continuing to work in partnership with the dispersed gallery network. As a result of internal restructuring at Amgueddfa Cymru, the status of the operating model is a draft with a final version to be developed as part of transition planning prior to March 2025. The final version of the operating model will also give further consideration to the challenge of future sustainability, specifically the identified annual running costs, working to a similar timeline.

The FBC focused on the dispersed model only. Please see Question 7 for further information on the proposed anchor site.

5. Revenue Funding: Please provide an estimate of the ongoing revenue funding required to operate the dispersed network of galleries.

As part of the development of the FBC, a future operating model was developed based on the minimum staffing resource required to deliver the targets and commitments outlined in the FBC and the benefits management plan. The agreed future operating model will continue to maximise opportunities to widen access, and to maintain the expertise and competence necessary to support the wider dispersed network in delivering the ambition for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales. It will:

- Design and curate new exhibitions to support wider audience and participation targets;
- Expedite the loans process for the national collections held by National Museums Wales and the National Library of Wales;

- Lead on partnership work to support artist engagement and increase opportunities for practicing contemporary artists in Wales across the network;
- Continue to develop digital content for members of the public, schools and colleges and be responsible for licencing and copyright across the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales
- Deliver a communications strategy supporting the achievement of targets around local, national and international visitors and increases the profile of the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales nationally and internationally;
- Develops additional revenue streams and sources;
- Maintains the operational capacity of the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales over a 10-year period;
- Provides the required monitoring, evaluation and reporting over an agreed 10-year period;

The agreed operating model to be in place from April 2025 onwards has identified the minimum annual running costs for year one (2025-26) as being £400,000 rising to £550,000 by year ten. These running costs are additional to any revenue funding already committed to the dispersed gallery network for example via the Arts Council of Wales's annual investment review funding or annual grants to the ALBs. These costs were based on a lean operating model albeit one with sufficient resources and capacity to deliver the agreed project benefits over a 10-year period.

A fundraising plan was commissioned and approved by the Project Board. This included developing a case for support. The plan outlines a fundraising approach in which if annual targets are achieved, will reduce central funding requirements. The fundraising plan identifies potential sources of funding from a range of sources including £100,000 from Arts Council of Wales Lottery Funds and £100,000 from trusts and foundations with the remaining £200,000 to come from other public sources, as yet to be identified.

All identified sources of revenue are new and additional funding. While progress is being made to develop live applications, these will all be subject to a competitive process at a time when funding from these sources is already under significant pressure.

The National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales fundraising plan did consider other sources of annual revenue funding as follows:

- Ticket sales: There will be no income generated from ticket sales from exhibitions as one of the key principles of the project is for access to the national collection to be free of charge to visitors.
- Event sales: Some galleries in the dispersed network may, on occasion, organise specific events around exhibitions which may in some cases, generate a small amount of income. However, such income usually only covers costs and therefore there should be no assumption of income generation from events.
- Merchandise: There is no plan or partner appetite for National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales branded merchandise at this stage. This would require a significant investment in stock, further financial risk and the partner galleries would not have the capacity to handle specific merchandise of this kind.

Modelling has shown branded merchandise would only bring in very limited income with little or no profit. This could however be reviewed at a later stage.

The National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales dispersed model is coming into full operational mode at a time when the fundraising landscape in Wales and the UK is challenging and highly competitive. Therefore, the full annual target of £400,000 is challenging to meet.

We understand there may be some funding gaps needing consideration during the first few years of operation. However, these are yet to be quantified.

We have recently received a request for three to six months transition funding to support the move between delivery of the capital project and business as usual delivery. This is currently being considered and discussions remain ongoing as the plan develops.

6. Gallery Space: Now that the galleries participating in the dispersed network have been determined, please advise how much new public exhibition space is being created by this element of the proposal?

Following completion of the capital investment programme, by March 25, eight out of the nine galleries in the dispersed network will have improved their telemetry and security, resulting in new or repurposed spaces, suitably upgraded to satisfy the loan requirements specified for the national collection.

It is important to note a key focus of the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales dispersed model has been not only to create new spaces, but rather to maximise existing gallery spaces by significantly enhancing their current capabilities through capital funding.

The focus has been on additionality through bringing existing gallery spaces across Wales and via the dispersed network, up to the standard required to meet GIS standards. In doing so, by the end of March 2025, the available exhibition space across Wales, at the required standards to host the national collection, including higher value loan items, will have increased significantly.

In addition to the spaces available in existing national collection venues (Amgueddfa Cymru and National Library of Wales) each venue should be able to provide between 200-400 square metres of temporary exhibition space and/or equivalent permanent exhibition space which can be dedicated to the display of contemporary art from the national collection.

Early in the project design, Newport Museum and Art Gallery was given permission to pursue a city-wide strategy allowing them to work more closely with existing cultural and heritage venues in the city. Borrowing items from the national collection as part of a wider engagement strategy in the city will focus on lower value items in addition to digital media.

By the end of the current phase, the target to ensure provision of 2,000-3,000 square metres of permanent or temporary exhibition space across Wales by March 2025, complying with UKRG standards to display a Welsh national collection of contemporary art will be achieved. As part of this, the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales dispersed network will also find and deliver innovative ways to display contemporary art in outdoor settings.

7. Anchor Site Proposals: Have the proposals for the anchor site been finalised and can you share the site that has been selected with the Committee? Please also provide provisional cost estimates related to establishing and operating the anchor site.

On 10 July, the former Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice announced additional funding to protect and preserve Wales' national treasures. As a result of this we have needed to review our plans for investing in an anchor gallery for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales.

Given the financial position, we will not be proceeding with the anchor gallery at the current time. However, while the work to establish the dispersed gallery network completes, consideration is being given to ways to increase access to art for all, the intention being to extend the increased access to contemporary art made possible by the dispersed model, so it is available and accessible to people wherever they live and work across Wales.

8. Brand Development: Please provide an update on the development of branding for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales. Please also share with us what this branding presence will look like and what it is intended to convey.

Following research and consultation with partners, artists groups and stakeholders, the NCAGW Dispersed Model Team have been developing options for branding the initiative across all elements of the project (i.e. local galleries and overall initiative). Four options were presented to the Project Board relating to the name, vision, values, mission and visual identity of what we currently know as NCAGW.

We have agreed 'Celf' as the most suitable option but also agreed the following:

- i. The use of 'Celf' along with the words 'the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales', until such a time as evidence demonstrates the brand is recognised
- ii. The use of 'Celf' is explored in conjunction with other words to emphasise key elements of the project (e.g. Celf Cyfoes or Celf Cenedlaethol etc.) depending on how the brand develops. This would align well with the digital platform Celf ar y Cyd.

I expect to receive further information on the development of the brand as it takes place.

9. Environmental Sustainability: Has a stand-alone strategy, or statement of principles regarding the environmental sustainability of the Gallery been developed that can be shared with the Committee?

As part of the development of the Full Business Case, organisation level environmental policies and strategies from 6 of the 9 galleries in the dispersed network were supplied, along with those from the three partner organisations. All policies and procedures have been developed to support Welsh Government's ambitions around net zero and sustainability targets. 5 of the gallery partners in the network are local authority organisations and conform to local authority environmental plans.

It is the intention these will be used to support the development of a stand-alone statement of principles for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales, before it becomes fully operational from April 2025 onwards and once the capital investment programme is complete.

The capital investment programme will continue to be delivered in-line with Welsh Government environmental standards and requirements and allow for the gallery network to further improve approaches to environmental sustainability.

The Project Board's Digitisation Subgroup is working to agree metrics to measure the environmental impact of digitising a significant number of contemporary art works from the national collection and making them available via the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales's dedicated digital platform. Once completed, this work will also support the development of a stand-alone statement of principles by the end of February 2025.

MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

JULY 2024

INWARD VISITS

Nil

OUTWARD VISITS

Nil

Jack Sargeant MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

22 July 2024

Re: Petition P-06-1387 Provide humanitarian aid to Gaza

Dear Jack,

I write to you following our [evidence session](#) on international relations with the First Minister on 19 June 2024, to update you on matters relating to [Petition P-06-1387 Provide humanitarian aid to Gaza](#).

The First Minister reconfirmed the position that, if an appeal is launched by the Disasters Emergency Committee ("DEC"), the Welsh Government would expect to contribute.

He was asked whether the 17.6 per cent cut to the Welsh Government's international development budget will affect its ability to donate. The First Minister responded that any budget reductions:

"...would affect our ability to provide money to this or any other DEC appeal. [...] We don't know when an appeal might be launched. So, the honest truth is it will affect our ability, but I couldn't tell you how much or when, and that's because we don't yet know when a DEC appeal will be launched as well. That is part of the wider reality of our budgetary position."

Members asked whether consideration had been given to benefits in kind that could be contributed, such as expertise. The First Minister responded that no detailed conversations had taken place but that, in previous situations:

"...in a range of areas, we've provided benefits in kind that aren't always about money—sometimes it's about equipment, sometimes it's about expertise. So, I'd

want to look at what we can do in a positive way. And this all comes back to when there is a period in time when we're able to do that, because at the moment, there isn't a permanent or sustainable ceasefire."

I hope this provides a useful update to your consideration of the petition.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



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

delyth.jewell@senedd.wales

1 August 2024

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter of 07 July, which requested further information following my attendance at the Committee's annual scrutiny session of International Relations on 19 June.

I would like to reiterate my comments during the session that our focus is on delivering our International Strategy and achieving meaningful outcomes for Wales. I welcome the Committee's support in key areas, particularly around the refresh of the Strategy.

The answers to each of your questions have been set out, in turn, in the annex to this letter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething".

VAUGHAN GETHING

Annex A - Response

Q1. Implementation Review of the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement

We remain unclear of the exact scope of the upcoming implementation review of the TCA and the extent to which the review will allow for any significant changes to be made to the existing agreement.

The short-term priority needs to remain making the existing TCA work as well as possible and using the governance structures that exist under the agreement to raise issues, such as specific barriers to trade, with the EU. Nevertheless, my officials have begun to explore where we think any potential changes to the TCA could benefit Wales in the longer term. An EU and Trade working group has been formed, with representation from officials across the Welsh Government, so that we can begin to identify potential priorities.

At this point, it is not possible to provide a definite list of priorities. However, it is likely that we will want to fully explore the potential benefits of a Veterinary Agreement with the EU, subject to the principles that agreement would be based on, as well as cooperation with the EU on animal health and welfare more broadly. We also want to better understand options any review might provide that leads to more visa and permit-free routes for our touring musicians and creative professionals across all Member States.

Q2. Technical briefing on the TCA

I have asked officials to provide you with a technical briefing at the start of the Autumn term. You are welcome to share this paper with other Committees who have an interest.

Q3. International Strategy monitoring

I would like to thank the Committee for providing the list of actions that you have identified across the Strategy and its associated action plans. As mentioned during our scrutiny session, I have asked officials to move away from report writing and focus on delivering our activity. That said, I agree with the comments made by the Committee that it is important to have a clear set of deliverables which can be used to measure progress and I believe that these actions provide that clarity.

The Committee is aware that the International Strategy sets out a cross-government approach to delivering our international activity. This cross-cutting approach means that there are different delivery teams with responsibility for delivering the activity. Progress against our key deliverables was last reviewed during the initial development of the annual report and will now be out of date; therefore, officials are undertaking a review of progress against delivery as part of the review into the refresh of the International Strategy taking place in the coming months. I have asked officials to provide you with a separate briefing on the deliverables, as part of the work being undertaken on the refresh, to ensure that the most up to date information is provided.

Q4. Impact of budget reductions on the delivery of the International Strategy

All budgets across Welsh Government faced cuts - International Relations and the International Sustainable Development budgets were not alone in this. This is the unavoidable result of 14 years of austerity and broken promises on EU replacement funds. As a result, spend has had to be refocussed and reprioritised. For example, the

International Learning Opportunities programme was paused to allow for other work on our Wales and Africa programme to continue. Whilst pausing the ILO programme was challenging for our partners in Africa, it has given officials the opportunity to review the impact of post-Covid placements and make plans to refresh the programme – which has had a positive effect. Many of the ILO placements have been highly impactful, either for the host organisation or the individual participant, as highlighted in the recently annual report, and this pause will allow proper consideration of our learning to take place. I hope that we can resume some placements later in this financial year.

We know budgets are challenging and will continue to be so; therefore, we prioritise our work to ensure we continue to deliver internationally with those countries and regions where the best outcomes for Wales can be achieved.

Due to budget reductions, we have explored alternative approaches, such as reviewing our diaspora initiatives. With a reduced International Engagement budget, we have integrated diaspora engagement into the ongoing activities of our overseas offices instead of maintaining a separate funding line for this work.

Q5 & 6. Funding for external partner organisations

I am proud of the Team Wales approach that we take to international engagement. It shows the world that Wales is a small country that can work together. In addition to funding our strategic partners, we work closely with a number of other partners including Amgueddfa Cymru, the British Council Wales, the Football Association of Wales and more.

The previous First Minister told you that we expected to see funding bids from our strategic partners in the early months of 2024. This was achieved. I appreciate that the Committee would like this process to have taken place earlier but, as you will expect, discussions with our partners identified that many of them were facing similar financial challenges, as a result of the challenging budgetary situation, and it was important that they had the time to plan and prepare for the year ahead.

We have worked hard within the financial parameters to protect the funding of our strategic partners. The Urdd received a slight increase in funding and Wales Arts International also received an increase to take forward a fund to support travelling artists to visit priority regions and begin new collaborations. The Office of the Future Generations Commissioner has received the same amount as last year. And, because of a different funding timeframe, we have not formally confirmed the amount of funding for Academi Heddwch but have discussed future funding with AH and will issue a grant letter shortly.

Organisation	Funding 2023-24	Funding 2024-25
Urdd Gobaith Cymru	£175,500	£187,000
Office of the Future Generations Commissioner	£200,000	£200,000
Wales Arts International	£215,000	£275,000
Academi Heddwch	£140,918	£140,918 (tbc)

Q7. Evaluation of 'Wales In' years

'Wales in' is a collaborative initiative convened by the Welsh Government to spotlight resource and mobilise internal and external stakeholder focus on a priority country to amplify existing links and invest strategically in new connections that bring long-term benefits back to the people of Wales. Now in its fourth year, 'Wales in' has evolved with each iteration - including our approach to evaluation.

Germany, our first 'Wales in' year, was a pilot held during the height of Covid travel restrictions and, as such, although an internal evaluation did take place, it was limited in its scope due to the constantly changing delivery environment. Canada was also subjected to an internal evaluation as the backdrop to delivery was also relatively unknown given the changing pace of the lifting of global Covid restrictions. However, to ensure robust accountability and analysis we commissioned an independent evaluation for our activity in France as this was the first year in which we could deliver a programme in stable conditions. The independent evaluation was also intended to provide assurance that our growing ambition for the 'Wales in' years was the right approach. I have asked officials to provide you with further details on the evaluation as part of our briefing on the international strategy refresh noted in Q3.

The purpose of the 'Wales in' model is to deepen existing relationships and create new opportunities for mutual growth across all areas of interest identified in our International Strategy. To date, the focus has been on countries where we have a presence in overseas markets. As the programme grows, an increased emphasis on monitoring and evaluation will further develop these criteria.

Decisions on 'Wales in' countries

Countries are agreed following evidence-based analysis which is focused on delivering a strong economic agenda and in response to strategic economic, political and cultural opportunities that have the potential to deliver significant long-term impacts and present a contemporary, diverse and inclusive Wales to the world. A key focus of previous 'Wales in' model was to raise the profile of our newer Welsh Government offices in markets, in order to develop links and relationships within their host country, as well as taking the opportunity to capitalise on the profile-raising opportunities provided by global mega-events (e.g. France Rugby World Cup 2023 and Japan World Expo). Welsh Government offices were established in Germany, Canada and France in 2018, providing a focus for these three countries, whilst Wales in India 2024 supports a renewed focus on this fast-developing market.

Planning future 'Wales in' years

The 'Wales in' model is delivered collaboratively with partners within, and outside of, government and Wales. The level of stakeholder engagement in planning and delivery necessitates relatively long lead-times for planning. As such, planning for Wales in Japan 2025 is already underway, and the second stakeholder group is taking place shortly which includes stakeholders across Wales, and Japan stakeholders. 2026's focus market will be confirmed shortly.

In order to achieve maximum value-for-money, the 'Wales in' model is seen as an accelerator for priority sectors where there is potential for long-term growth. To identify these, the 'Wales in' project teams co-produce a strategy at the outset of delivery with stakeholders. Each focus must be of mutual interest for the target nation.

The 'Wales in' years' work closely with UK Government and other agencies nationally and in-market. Alignment to UK and international priorities and programmes is crucial to increasing reach, securing additional funding streams and ownership thus providing value for money to the taxpayer.

'Wales in' activity is a combination of Wales-based and overseas stakeholders' budgets and resources, with significant programme activity being delivered by bodies external to the core International Relations team. Where suitable, projects are jointly delivered, match-funded or given support in kind from partners in-country - for example Wales in France worked with Nantes Metropole and Pays de la Loire regional government. This model has been shown to be an effective mechanism to draw down further financial support from national organisations. The Wales in France cultural fund made additional funds available to Wales via match-funding of partner organisations including the British Council France.

Budget

Budget for the themed years has been largely consistent each year although it did increase last year, in line with the programme's opportunity and the associated return-on-investment. This year's independent evaluation has been important to provide a robust evaluation and to make recommendations for future years.

Q8. Welsh Government Representative on Europe

The role of European Representative is unique in nature and has been celebrated by other Devolved Nations, and wider international counterparts, as an innovative way in which to promote Wales' interests and engage with European institutions and networks. I welcome the Committee's positive comments about the role and the impact that the current incumbent, Derek Vaughan, has had with regards to engagement with European institutions. We are currently considering the future of the role beyond its current end date, and I do not wish to pre-empt any HR decisions or processes that still need to happen. I will write to the Committee once a decision has been made.

Q9. International Relations Concordat

Intergovernmental working on international relations issues was raised at the Interministerial Standing Committee in May and October 2023. The Welsh Government is keen to ensure genuine intergovernmental engagement on this topic and will seek to discuss the most appropriate mechanisms to achieve that as intergovernmental meetings resume following the appointment of the new UK Government.

Eluned Morgan MS
First Minister
Ken Skates
Cabinet Secretary for the Economy, Transport
and North Wales
Welsh Government

20 August 2024

International Strategy and Cardiff Wales Airport

Dear Eluned and Ken

I write in relation to the **written statement** issued on 22 July 2024, announcing planned long-term additional investment funding for Cardiff Airport across a ten-year period, subject to regulatory approval.

The statement references the Welsh Government's **International Strategy** as follows:

To improve connectivity, the Airport will seek to develop routes to those parts of the world identified in the Welsh Government's international strategy as being important for economic growth, such as:

- The Middle East and South Asia*
- The European Union - major economic and finance centres and hub airports*
- North America*

As the Committee responsible for the scrutiny of the Welsh Government's international relations activity, including its International Strategy, I would like to request more information on this significant development as outlined under the subheadings below.

Delivery of the International Strategy

You will be aware that there are two references to Cardiff Airport in the International Strategy, published in 2020. These references are in the context of describing Wales's connectivity to the rest of the world and, separately, in relation to sustainable adventure tourism and the ambition for the airport to become a UK centre for low-carbon aviation. Can you clarify the timeframe for the investment decision? Also, can you confirm which routes are being considered for development and how each route will support the delivery of the International Strategy?

The International Strategy sets out three core aims which are to:

1. raise Wales's global profile;
2. grow the economy by increasing exports and inwards investment; and
3. for Wales to be a globally responsible nation.

I would welcome detailed information on:

- how this investment contributes to each of the three core aims, as outlined; and
- what consideration was given to balancing the core aims, particularly with regards to sustainability?

I would also be grateful if you could clarify:

- whether the investment will be used to action the Airport's plans to commit to net zero targets (which was not met by March 2023), such as for a solar farm at the airport or for the purchase of electric or hybrid vehicles?
- to what extent the failure to meet this target undermines the International Strategy's aim for the airport to become a UK centre for low-carbon aviation?
- how the resumption of Qatar Airways services, if it is secured, will support the delivery of the International Strategy?

Role of overseas offices in the investment decision

Could you explain what involvement the Welsh Government's overseas offices have had in the investment decision as it relates to Wales's connectivity to the rest of the world? In addition, will the overseas offices have a role in the delivery of the airport's future plans that are linked to the International Strategy?

Budgetary implications

The scale of the investment is significant, and it does highlight budgetary implications. While the investment package is subject to regulatory approval, it could total a maximum of £206million across a ten-year period. This is substantially more than the allocated international relations budget of £8.093million for this financial year.

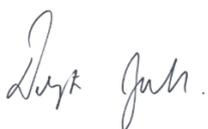
You note in the statement that this investment is, in part, linked to improving connections with parts of the world identified in the International Strategy as being important for economic growth. In that regard, can you explain:

- How will the investment relate to the International Relations budget?
- The Welsh Government has repeatedly told us that it faces a challenging financial situation and cannot plan beyond annual cycles, particularly in relation to other areas of our Committee's remit such as the culture sector. How has the Welsh Government made these funds available?
- On what basis was the airport investment prioritised over other financial pressures such as the financial crisis in the arts, culture and sport?

Finally, I would like to note how disappointing it was to learn of this information by written statement on the first Monday of the summer recess. There were ample opportunities to update Members during term time. For example, the former First Minister attended our scrutiny session on international relations on 19 June 2024, just four weeks before this statement was issued. During the session, the airport was not raised despite specific discussions on the Welsh Government's future international priorities, delivery of the International Strategy and activity in the regions earmarked for new flight routes.

I would be grateful for a response to this letter by no later than 17 September 2024. I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee, the Chair of the Climate Change, Environment and Infrastructure Committee, and the Chair of the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee for their information.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

MINISTERIAL INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

AUGUST 2024

INWARD VISITS

Nil

OUTWARD VISITS

Nil

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

5 August 2024

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 27 June regarding the cuts to Books Council of Wales's funding, in which you request further information on the Creative Skills Fund and about my recent visit to the Books Council.

The Creative Skills Fund was set up in 2022 to help address the skills needs of the creative sectors directly supported by Creative Wales. The aim of the Fund is to deliver against the priorities set out in the Creative Skills Action Plan, which was shaped by an industry led Advisory Panel following research into the needs of the sectors. The Plan identifies three priority sectors of support, namely music, screen and games, animation and immersive technology. When the second round of the Fund launched earlier this year, it was again designed to align to the priorities and focus of the Creative Skills Action Plan.

The Creative Skills Action Plan is a three year action plan, ending in 2025. An evaluation of delivery against the Plan's priorities and the projects funded through the Fund will be undertaken prior to decisions being made on any future approach to support for creative skills. This will include consideration of whether any future funding delivered through Creative Wales should cover wider creative sectors.

The previous Minister for Social Partnership Sarah Murphy MS met with the Books Council in Aberystwyth on 6 June to visit their Distribution Centre and to meet with Helgard Krause, Chief Executive and Linda Tomos, Chair, Books Council of Wales. The meeting was arranged as a six-monthly ministerial meeting, forming part of the governance arrangements surrounding Creative Wales' annual grant funding to the Books Council.

During the meeting they discussed the impact of the budget cut and the challenging budgetary situation for 2024-25. The Books Council acknowledged difficult decisions had been taken on how best to absorb the cut, in close consultation with publishers and subcommittees. They confirmed priority has been given to protecting budgets that support revenue programmes and supported posts. This has ensured the grants awarded to publishers from the Books Council's core budgets are unchanged from the previous year. No redundancies have been

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0300 0604400

Gohebiaeth.Jack.Sargeant@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Jack.Sargeant@gov.wales

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.

made, however, a small number of vacant posts will not be filled. Budgets related to wider areas, such as marketing, have been reduced and in some cases, such as the modest grant for independent high street booksellers supporting Welsh language books, have been cut.

I gather that during the meeting, it was discussed that we should explore all opportunities to seek additional funding in-year to support targeted projects or activities, if budgets are made available. The Books Council also highlighted the positive impact to the sector of leveraging wider funding from other Welsh Government departments. As noted in the previous correspondence, the activities delivered through these additional grant awards enable us to further invest in the sector while also supporting a broader range of Welsh Government priorities including promotion of the Welsh language and educational attainment.

I am grateful for their continued work both to support the Welsh publishing industry and to deliver its reading for pleasure interventions during this difficult period. If you would like any further information on Creative Wales' support for the publishing sector through the Books Council of Wales I would be happy for my officials to provide a briefing to the Committee.

Your sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JACK SARGEANT". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Jack Sargeant AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol
Minister for Social Partnership

Helgard Krause
Chief Executive
Books Council of Wales

12 August 2024

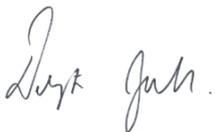
Re: Concerns around funding for magazines in Wales

Dear Helgard,

Thank you for your **response** of 4 June 2024 to our **letter** of 23 May 2024. We considered your response at our meeting on 10 July 2024, along with further correspondence from Emily Trehair, the former Editor of Planet Magazine. We would welcome any further comments that you may wish to make on Emily's points of clarification by Tuesday, 17 September 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.

HK/MLW

17 September 2024

Committee Chair and Members
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF
CF99 1SN

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

Re your letter 12 August 2024 – Concerns around funding for magazines in Wales

Thank you for inviting further comments in relation to Emily Trehair's letter of 2 July 2024 and for the opportunity to respond. We believe that the evidence and information we presented to this committee thus far have addressed the key points raised in Emily Trehair's letter. We completely refute any allegations of making untrue, misleading or defamatory statements. There are two particular points however that warrant further clarification.

1. The purpose of the grant

The fact that some publishers have been receiving funding over many years may have created the impression that our funding is to support particular businesses or titles, but this is not the case. Our grants have the express purpose of ensuring the provision of particular outputs (books, magazines, online content) rather than the individual brands of publishers. It is the purpose of our grants, whether for books or for magazines, to ensure that readers have access to platforms and published content, not to guarantee the ongoing existence of any specific title, brand or company.

With regard to the new tender opportunity advertised in March 2024, a publisher who applied unsuccessfully for funding under the old tender would not have been able to recycle that application under the new tender, as it would not meet the criteria. However, unsuccessful applicants to the old tender were welcome to submit applications for new proposals that responded to and met the criteria for the new brief. It is of course up to editors and publishers to decide whether they are interested in providing those services and how to respond to new opportunities.

2. Funding status

The fact that publishers have been in receipt of funding in previous rounds, no matter for how long, does not create an entitlement to future funding once the contract has ended. So this is not a case of funding having been withdrawn, but rather that the application for new funding has been unsuccessful. And whilst it is understandable that unsuccessful applicants are deeply disappointed, it is entirely incorrect to portray as arbitrary and somehow unfair, the unanimous decisions taken by an independent subcommittee made up of experts in their field, with many years of service to Wales.

We completely refute Emily Trehair's allegation that she would be at a personal disadvantage in relation to future applications because of her involvement with the campaign to support magazines. We would never discriminate against any applicants on the basis of their involvement with particular causes and we fully agree that a decade of standstill funding followed by this year's budget cut has created an almost impossible environment for small independent publishers to exist, let alone thrive.

It is noteworthy perhaps that one of the programme publishers we support, Parthian Books, have taken on *New Welsh Review*, and it will continue to be published under Gwen Davies' editorship.

On a final note, we are able to update you that the tender process to award the remaining £80,000 a year for a brand-new literary magazine has been completed, which concludes the process for the 2024–28 round of the Cultural Periodicals Grant. We will be making the announcement regarding the new magazine on Thursday 19 September, and it will be launched in the new year.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide clarification on these additional points.

Yours sincerely,



HELGARD KRAUSE
Chief Executive

Agenda Item 2.6

Rebecca Evans AS/MS
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid, y Cyfansoddiad
a Swyddfa'r Cabinet
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution & Cabinet Office



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Mike Hedges MS
Chair
Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee
Senedd Cymru

5 August 2024

Dear Mike,

I am writing in accordance with the inter-institutional relations agreement to notify you of the Welsh Government's attendance at the British-Irish Council (BIC) Summit held in Isle of Man on 20 and 21 June. The then Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language, Jeremy Miles MS, represented the Welsh Government. I would like to draw your attention to the BIC [communiqué](#) summarising the outcomes of the Summit.

The Summit theme focused on 'Unlocking the Economic and Social Opportunities of Renewables Across These Islands'. The Welsh Government noted its commitment to delivering a fair and affordable transition to a low carbon future, including our aims for the publicly owned renewable energy developer, Trydan Gwyrdd Cymru, to secure value from the energy system and help to meet our renewable energy targets. In addition, Wales' Morlais project, one of the world's first fully consented tidal stream array, as well as offshore and onshore wind opportunities were highlighted.

I have copied this letter to the Chairs of the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Rebecca Evans AS/MS

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Gyllid, y Cyfansoddiad a Swyddfa'r Cabinet
Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution & Cabinet Office

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

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Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Correspondence.Rebecca.Evans@gov.wales
Gohebiaeth.Rebecca.Evans@llyw.cymru

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.

*Yn Gosod y Llwyfan I'r Celfyddydau Perfformio yng Nghymru
Setting the Stage for the Performing Arts in Wales*

Dear Ms Jewell

I hope you are well.

We are deeply concerned that Caerphilly County Council have announced proposals to withdraw subsidy, mothballing Blackwood Miners' Institute from the end of December 2024. There is a growing and significantly worrying trend for local authorities to withdraw from cultural provision and spending.

Communities and audiences will be left with no access to the arts or culture on their doorstep. We know that Blackwood Miners' Institute presents over 160 performances and welcomes 32,275 audiences every year. They are a home to many community and amateur productions and importantly also have active youth theatre at a time when young people's access is also challenging.

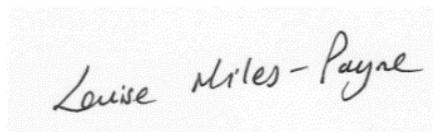
The venue directly supports 25 people (a mixture of internal staff and freelance professionals) and of course additionally provides work for a sector workforce through receiving touring performances.

We know how heavily the creative sector relies on local venues for their living and how local audiences love their venues. Local theatres make a vital contribution to the economy, health and wellbeing, and international reputation of our nation. Venues like Blackwood Miners' are the lifeblood of local communities, providing inspiration, entertainment and a creative outlet for so many. Theatre supports individual wellbeing and provides jobs for skilled local people. It provides value to the community at large through revived highstreets, a thriving nighttime economy and by encouraging social cohesion. ACW have further announced a detailed Economic Impact Assessment for the sector, unfortunately it looks like this might be too late for Blackwood Miners', but we hope not.

Our funding environment with local authorities reducing cultural spending, the recent ACW cuts and Welsh Governments budgetary challenge is alarming. We hope to work with you and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee to encourage Caerphilly County Council to reverse their decision.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Cofion gorau,
Best wishes,



Louise Miles-Payne,
Cyfarwyddwr, Creu Cymru / Director, Creu Cymru

Agenda Item 2.8

An Comhchoiste um
Thurasóireacht, Cultúr, Ealaíona,
Spórt agus Meáin



Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Sport and Media

Teach Laighean
Baile Átha Cliath 2

Leinster House
Dublin 2

Teil: (01) 618 3121

Tel: (01) 618 3121

R/phost : jcmedia@oireachtas.ie

E-mail: jcmedia@oireachtas.ie

Ms Delyth Jewell MS,
Chairperson,
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language Sport, and International Relations Committee,
Welsh Parliament.

Email: SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

5 July 2024

Ref: JCM-I-2058

Dear Ms Jewell,

I write to you on behalf of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media in relation to your correspondence received on 21st June 2024 regarding publication of written evidence and correspondence.

At its meeting of 26th June 2024, the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media considered your correspondence and agreed to note it with thanks.

If you require further information regarding this matter, please contact the Secretariat by email at jcmedia@oireachtas.ie or on the telephone numbers listed.

Yours sincerely,



Laura Pathe
Clerk to the Joint Committee
Telephone (01) 618 4125

Tania Banotti
Director
Creative Ireland
Joyce House
8 – 11 Lombard Street
Dublin 2
D02 Y729

09 August 2024

By email only: creativeireland@tcagsm.gov.ie

Dear Tania,

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 includes consideration of

the Wales-Ireland perspective when undertaking our parliamentary 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 6 September 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.

Ms Catherine Martin T.D.

Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

13 Kildare Street

Dublin 2

D02 TD30

09 August 2024

By email only: ministers.office@tcagsm.gov.ie

Dear Ms Martin TD,

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:

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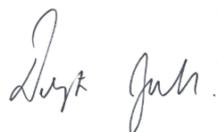
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We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

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

Maria Fleming
Chair
National Campaign for the Arts
C/O Theatre Forum CLG
Festival House
12 Essex Street
East Dublin 2
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SeneddCulture@senedd.wales
senedd.wales/SeneddCulture
0300 200 6565

09 August 2024

By email only: info@ncfa.ie

Dear Ms Fleming,

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We would be grateful to receive any written contribution from you by Friday 6 September 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.

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

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

Maureen Kennelly
Director
The Arts Council
70 Merrion Square
Dublin 2
D02 NY52

09 August 2024

By email only: carla.caravantes@artscouncil.ie

Dear Maureen,

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:

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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 includes consideration of the Wales-Ireland perspective when undertaking our parliamentary work in the Senedd. With that in

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Welsh Parliament

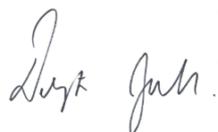
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We would be grateful to receive any written contribution from you by Friday 6 September 2024.

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.



5 September, 2024

Delyth Jewell
Committee chair
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport & International Relations Committee

Culture and New Relationship with the European Union Inquiry

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 9 August, regarding your inquiry on Culture and New Relationship with the European Union and requesting a written response from Arts Council Ireland.

We have pleasure in providing the following information which also reports the information shared with us by our colleagues at Creative Europe Desk Ireland.

The Arts Council does not have specific data on the impact of Brexit on artistic activities between Ireland and Wales; however, through our ongoing engagement with the sector, we are generally aware of some of the issues that have emerged since its implementation. For instance, while the Common Travel Area has mitigated mobility issues between the two countries, we have seen the emergence of barriers and tariffs affecting the movement of art goods across borders (e.g. visual arts material, technical equipment, etc.), which has had an effect on individual artists working between the two countries in particular.

The main impact is represented by the exclusion of British organisations from Co-operation Projects supported under Creative Europe programmes. Until 2021 it was possible for Irish organisations to work in partnership with British organisations under these European frameworks, which contributed to an overall strengthening of relationships with Wales also.

As mentioned above, we are aware that some more detailed information about past European initiatives has been provided through Creative Europe Desk Ireland and the Department of Culture. Please see below for reference:



MEDIA:

Distribution and Sales

The audio-visual sector has long been tied to a single UK/IE territory model and works on Box Office figures rather than admissions. All deals that are made are UK/IE. Given the buying power of the UK Distributors, it is very challenging to acquire rights for Ireland only screenings particularly for European and indie titles as there are only 3 arthouse cinemas in Ireland plus a federation of Film clubs (Access Cinema). Some Irish distributors act as sub-distributors for the UK Distributor in Ireland but tends to be an unequal relationship.

When world sales agents sell the rights for the UK and Ireland to a UK Distributor, the Distributor automatically presumes they have the Irish territory and this sometimes causes problems when Irish broadcasters and Film Funds are involved in the financing.

There are no dedicated Film Sales Agents in Ireland and Irish producers traditionally work with UK Sales Agents which makes those Irish films ineligible for the Films on the Move scheme.

Producers support schemes

Irish Producers have traditionally worked with Producers and Broadcasters in the UK and in particular Northern Ireland. Brexit has impacted access to Creative Europe funds in some cases where, for example, the UK broadcaster is not an eligible broadcaster for the TV and Online scheme or a UK production company is not eligible for the Co-Development scheme.

However, Irish companies have proved to be adept in sourcing new partnerships in other European countries and some Northern Irish companies have set up companies in the Republic in order to access Creative Europe funds. Shareholders in these companies have the advantage of being Irish citizens and so fulfil the majority EU shareholding requirement.



CULTURE:

Co-operation Projects

Between 2014 and 2019, a total of 609 cultural projects involving UK beneficiaries received funding from Creative Europe.

Within this same timeline, under the Creative Europe Culture Sub-Programme's main funding strand (Support for European Cooperation Projects) there were 55 projects funded with Irish organisations with 30 projects involving at least 1 UK organisation (or 54% of the overall projects). However, when you look at projects led by UK organisations the number falls to 10 which represent 18% of all 55 projects.

While Irish organisations worked with 50 UK based organisations (2 in Northern Ireland) during this period they also partnered with 351 non-UK European partner organisations in 33 countries.

Individual Mobility

Irish artists travelling to the UK for residencies are not eligible to apply for Culture Moves Europe funding such as the Individual Mobility Award.

In conclusion, the Arts Council welcomes bilateral initiatives that strengthen connections between Ireland and the UK, including Wales. Current and recent examples include:

- Disability Access Card: UK Arts Councils' ALL IN Arts Access Scheme, which the Arts Council Ireland has been invited to join as a Founder Partner
- 14 Nations – Open Call: partnership initiative aimed at artists' mobility involving Ireland, UK and Nordic Countries.
- Beyond Borders: programme supporting the creation, touring and promotion of music across UK and Ireland



We are looking forward to meeting with you on September 20th and to discussing this further.

Kind regards,

Maureen Kennelly

Director

The Arts Council
70 Merrion Square
Dublin 2, D02 NY52

An Chomhairle Ealaíon
70 Cearnóg Mhuirfean,
Baile Átha Cliath 2, D02 NY52

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E info@artscouncil.ie



Agenda Item 2.9

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y
Cymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau
Rhyngwladol**

—

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

—

**Pwyllgor Newid Hinsawdd,
yr Amgylchedd a Seilwaith**

—

**Climate Change, Environment,
and Infrastructure Committee**

—

**Pwyllgor yr Economi,
Masnach a Materion Gwledig**

—

**Economy, Trade, and
Rural Affairs Committee**

Rt Hon Elin Jones MS
Llywydd and Chair
Business Committee

12 July 2024

Cross committee exchange visit to Oireachtas

Dear Llywydd

We are writing to the Business Committee to seek permission for a cross-committee exchange visit to the Oireachtas between 18 and 20 September 2024.

On 7 March 2024, the Dirprwy Lywydd and Members representing the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations (CCWLSIR) Committee and the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committee met with Ceann Comhairle (Speaker) of the Dáil Éireann, Seán Ó Fearghaíl and the Irish Government's Consul General of Ireland, Denise McQuade. During that meeting, the Ceann Comhairle suggested a series of exchange visits between the Oireachtas and the Senedd. Our proposed visit in September is the first in these series of exchanges.

A cross-committee visit to the Oireachtas would provide an opportunity to agree ways of working in line with commitments agreed by CCWLSIR Committee during its Wales-Ireland relations inquiry while

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providing a forum for Members to discuss common areas of shared interest and cooperation. Areas discussed during the meeting with Ceann Comhairle included themes and policy areas from the Wales-Ireland relations inquiry, such as culture and heritage, language, and climate change (in particular, renewable energy cooperation in the Irish Sea). For this reason, it is proposed that Members from the Climate Change, Environment, and Infrastructure Committee (CCEI) also participate in this exchange. Ireland is an important trading partner of Wales, and rural affairs was also discussed as an important area of shared interest and commonalities between the two nations. As such, it is also proposed that Members from the Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs (ETRA) Committee join the exchange.

Joint working between the Oireachtas and the Senedd is a key pillar of the international agreement between the Welsh and Irish governments, the Shared Statement and Joint Action Plan. Both the Welsh and Irish governments have regularly reiterated that they stand ready to support Senedd-Oireachtas interparliamentary work and are currently in the process of reviewing CCWLSIR Committee report's findings to inform decisions on Wales-Ireland cooperation beyond 2025. The First Minister has also invited the CCLWSIR Committee's input into the governments' plans for cooperation 2026-2030. The areas of cooperation outlined above are expected to be carried forward in the renewed Wales-Ireland Shared Statement beyond 2025, with the exception of rural affairs.

As part of the CCWLSIR Committee's legacy work on Wales-Ireland relations, the Chair has also established a regular meetings schedule with the Consul General of Ireland to share information and in preparation for Wales-Ireland cooperation beyond 2025. At their last meeting on 20 March 2024, the Consul General proposed that the CCWLSIR Committee meets again with the Irish Government's Department for Foreign Affairs on the Committee's next visit to Dublin to share updates on key areas of Wales-Ireland relations, such as diaspora support.

We also intend to conduct visits with relevant stakeholders involved in work that supports the Wales-Ireland agenda.

We believe this exchange visit will present an opportunity to develop a reciprocal programme of exchanges and joint working between Senedd and Oireachtas committees with a focus on Wales-Ireland cooperation beyond 2025.

In order to minimise disruption as much as possible on Senedd business, we have identified 18 to 20 September 2024 as an appropriate date to conduct this exchange visit. In this week, two of our committees will be meeting on the Wednesday morning (CCEI and ETRA) and it will be a reserve week for another (CCWLSIR).

Our intention is to travel following committee business on the Wednesday to arrive in Dublin on Wednesday evening. This will allow Members to conduct a full day of meetings and discussions at the

Oireachtas and with the Irish Government on Thursday. We will undertake further visits on the Friday morning with relevant stakeholders before travelling back on Friday afternoon.

The Members that have been confirmed by committees as participating in the exchange are:

- Delyth Jewell MS and Alun Davies MS (CCWLSIR)
- Luke Fletcher MS and Samuel Kurtz MS (ETRA);
- Llyr Gruffudd MS and one other Member to be confirmed (CCEI).

The Dirprwy Lywydd will lead the delegation as part of his dedicated international programme for the Sixth Senedd, and will undertake a programme of parliamentary and procedural meetings as part of the visit. This model of cross-committee international engagement comes as part of the delivery of the Senedd's International Framework which puts Senedd business at the heart of international activity.

We would be grateful if the Business Committee could confirm our approach and give permission to allow the Members noted to leave Plenary early on Wednesday 18 September 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Delyth Jewell MS

Llyr Gruffudd MS

Paul Davies MS

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

12 July 2024

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

Dear Delyth Jewell MS

Re: Update from Arts Council of Wales following general scrutiny

Thank you for your letter of 24 June and for the opportunity to provide a further update, below, to the Committee on the areas you have highlighted.

Strategic approach to the arts

Our new 10-year Strategic Framework introduces a revised vision:

‘the arts is part of the daily lives of the people of Wales, connecting us to each other, integral to our wellbeing, and inspiring us for generations to come’

This reflects our long-term commitment to sustain and develop creative activity that enriches the lives of its makers, participants and audiences locally, nationally, and globally, now and for future generations. The Strategic Framework was approved by our Council in March 2024, and we are currently awaiting its approval from Welsh Government prior to its launch and publication.

The Strategic Framework is underpinned by our 6 published principles that we consulted on as part of our Investment Review 2023 and that will provide a longer-term view of our key objectives. These are: Creativity, Equality and Engagement, Welsh Language, Climate Justice, Develop Talent and Transform.

Work to address these principles is shared across 3 goals that derive from our Royal Charter, the Wellbeing of the Future Generations Act and our long-term vision for the arts:

- **Develop**

Develop and improve the knowledge, understanding and sustainable practice of the arts.

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Ffôn: 03301 242733
Ffacs: 029 2044 1400
SMS: 07797 800504
Gwefan: www.celf.cymru

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Tel: 03301 242733
Fax: 029 2044 1400
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Website: www.arts.wales



Swyddfeydd Lleol/Local Offices:

Caerdydd/Cardiff, Bae Colwyn/Colwyn Bay, Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen
Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig/Registered Charity Number: 1034245

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg, ond dim gobaith os ydych chi ddarparu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.
We welcome correspondences in Welsh and English, corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.

- **Connect**

Making connections to improve the opportunity for the people of Wales to experience and enjoy the arts.

- **Promote**

Collaborating with partners to promote a Wales of vibrant culture and a thriving Welsh Language.

Through these we have identified key tasks that will provide support for the Sector, now and for the future, capturing the legacy of work and its longer-term impact.

Unlike its predecessor, *'For the Benefit of All'*, which was fixed for its 5-year period, in consideration of its 10-year remit, the Strategic Framework is designed to give a high-level overview, allowing it to be flexed and adjusted through periodic reviews. This approach allows us to respond to any future developments and changes in the cultural landscape, ensuring our published commitments and direction of travel remain fit for purpose.

Alongside this work, colleagues have been developing a suite of supporting plans, including annual operational plans, and longer-term plans that focus on equalities, Welsh Language, climate justice and international priorities that complement the Strategic Framework and provide more detail on the key actions we will undertake across our 6 published principles to drive forward the areas of focus and activity outlined in the Strategic Framework. We will be happy to share a copy with you once it has been approved by Welsh Government.

Following its appropriate approvals the Strategic Framework will be launched in a number of engaging ways and supported by a programme of communications. Periodic updates will be supported reporting of its progress, including through published case studies.

Review of English-language theatre

1. We first published our commitments resulting from the Investment Review in September 2023 in our [Investment Review 2023 Report and Decisions](#). This including a commitment to undertake a review of English-language theatre in Wales. However, as outlined in the Report, we were not in a position to confirm final awards and allocations until we had received confirmation of our own settlement for 2024-25. We received confirmation of a 10.5% reduction in our 2024-25 budget from Welsh Government on 20th December 2023, and Council confirmed its revised allocations, including the budget set aside for its identified strategic commitments, in February 2024. This reduction necessitated a reprofiling of our own expenditure, a programme of Voluntary Redundancies and a re-structure at senior level, which had to be completed by the end of March 2023. Following that, we published commitments in April 2024, on a reduced budget and with reduced capacity. Over recent weeks we have published tendering opportunities, through a full

open call process via Sell2Wales, for English -language theatre, traditional music and dance reviews to progress our published commitments in these areas.

2. We anticipate awarding contracts to our preferred provider by week commencing 22nd July, with the final version of the report to be received by the end of November. Following its consideration by our Council, work on implementation of its recommendations will begin in Q4 2024-25 and through to early 2025-26.
3. A copy of the Review's terms of Reference is attached.

Investment Review

Organisations that were successful in their application to the Investment Review received confirmation of their award for 2024-25 in February 2024, following confirmation of our own settlement from Welsh Government.

We will be undertaking evaluations of our own process and arrangements for delivering the Investment Review and examining the outcomes in consideration of our published objectives for the Investment Review. Both evaluations will be undertaken by our internal audit service providers as part of the agreed annual programme of internal audit activity and resulting audit reports will be shared with our Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and Council for consideration.

The 10.5% reduction in our own settlement necessitated a 2.5% reduction across the conditional offers made to these organisations in September 2023. Therefore, following confirmation of 2024-25 allocations, Officers have been agreeing revised proposals with each of the 81 successful organisations as part of their individual Funding Agreements. Both Funding Agreement templates and their associated reporting and monitoring procedures have been revised to reflect our new Strategic Framework and 6 principles that underpin our work going forward.

Taking on board feedback received during early workshops prior to the Investment Review application window, as well as feedback received since this time, we have recognised a clear desire from the sector for us to think differently, step back, and to consider the types of relationships we want to have with our funded organisations. These considerations include a more mature relationship with our multi-year funded organisations that is built on trust, honesty and accountability, it also needs to be flexible and proportionate to be reflective of organisations' individual capacities and resources, but that is also a mutual listening and feedback relationship that celebrates success and shares learning. The focus on quality will be paramount, both artistic delivery and organisational quality. The Funding Agreement will be a collaborative document, and organisations will be required to self-report their own progress against the agreed targets and areas of activity and expenditure, that officers will then discuss with them and provide feedback. We will however continue to receive information on financial matters and business plans and as a distributor of public money we will monitor public value and the health of organisations providing reports to Council through the Audit and Risk Committee.

We have established an internal Monitoring Processes Group to progress this work.

Health of the Sector

The current financial climate and its ongoing impact on an already pressurised sector following the wake of the pandemic is of grave concern.

Our provisional budget of £30.429m for 2024/25 is the lowest since 2007/08. For example, in 2010 we received 35 million in Grant in Aid which means that, in real terms, we have received a 37% cut since then. 92% of the funding we receive is distributed all over Wales to organisations and creative individuals which means that the impact of the cut affects communities the length and breadth of the country.

We have taken a number of steps to evaluate and help mitigate, where possible, the impact of the cut in our funding. In September 2022, we surveyed our funded organisations on the impact of the current cost of living crisis and its resulting effect on organisations' ability to safeguard employment in the sector. Of the 77 organisations that responded 56% noted then that they were very worried about increased energy costs, and a similar figure noted that they had seen a drop in income related directly to the cost-of-living crisis. 53% noted that they would need to reduce their planned programme of work in response. Individuals working within the sector, too, noted significant concerns, with 57% of respondents in this category signalling they were unsure whether they would be able to continue working within the sector, on their current incomes.

We will be undertaking a similar survey over the course of the next few weeks. However, through our continued communication and relationships, organisations continue to cite capacity issues and do not have the necessary resource to fulfil requirements.

Organisations continue to work against the backdrop of increasing costs and audiences that are feeling the effects of their own cost of living increases, meaning that many are reporting a shift in buying patterns. This has resulted in some organisations experiencing cash flow issues.

Other areas of impact result from the reduction in funding received by key partners and stakeholders, including Local Authorities and Higher Education institutes, both of which are having to scale back their offer of how they may support the sector within their own areas, including through partnership working and career pathways.

We offered some support to ease financial pressures with Cost-of-Living top up grants for existing projects as well as Business Development Grants of up to £50k per application. Welsh Government has also provided some ringfenced funding as part of a strategic initiative to avoid job losses in the arts sector and to give the organisations time to improve their financial situation in 2024/25.

We routinely monitor and report on the organisations in receipt of multi-year funding agreements, assessing a number of areas including financial stability, resilience, governance and operations. Monitoring arrangements are through a variety of approaches, including

scrutiny of financial information, business plans and board papers, regular Lead Officer contact, Lottery project monitoring, and 6 monthly surveys. This data is compiled and reported to our Executive Leadership Team, our Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and Council.

Following the 10.5% cut to our own funding from Welsh Government for 2024-25, we reprofiled our own internal resources. As a result, we managed to limit the cut to the sector to a 2.5% reduction on our initial conditional multi-year funding offers to all of the 81 organisations successful in the Investment Review.

Whilst organisations were grateful for this, in consideration of the above and the reduced funding offers we have had to make through our Investment Review process, organisations have had to review and revise their own business plans to scale back their proposed activity accordingly. Officers are currently in discussions with the organisations to agree revised Funding Agreements.

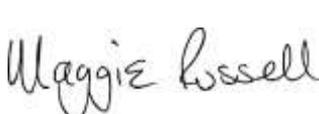
We have recently commissioned an Economic Impact Assessment of our work across the Sector. This not only considers the impact of our direct investment to the Sector through our grant awards and through employment of our own staff and our contracting of third parties, but also wider considerations including the indirect contribution made to supporting third parties including those who rely on the sector for their own livelihoods, including through employment or ancillary services. The Report is expected in September.

Under the Sustainable Development Principle, our corporate commitments consider their long-term impacts. However, it cannot go unsaid that, whilst we will continue to use every opportunity to advocate for support for the arts and the sector, we are facing significant financial challenges and, as a result, are having to make short term decisions in working towards our mission for the arts to be part of the daily lives of the people of Wales, connecting us to each other, reaching, reflecting and enriching all communities across Wales, now and for future generations.

We trust you will find this update useful and would welcome the opportunity to provide an annual update on key aspects of our work to the Committee if you feel this would be helpful.

In the meantime, please do let us know if you require further detail regarding any of the above.

Yours sincerely



Maggie Russell
Chair



Dafydd Rhys
Chief Executive

Encl: English Language Theatre Review – Terms of Reference

Terms of Reference: Review into English language theatre in Wales.

Background

Arts Council of Wales (ACW) is the official body for developing, supporting, and connecting the arts. We do this by distributing the public funds that are made available to us by the Welsh Government and the money that we receive for good causes from the National Lottery. Through our work, we want to see the arts flourish and reach as far and wide as possible. We believe that the arts are for part of the daily lives of the people of Wales, connecting us to each other, integral to our wellbeing, and inspiring us for generations to come.

One of the published outcomes of our recent Investment Review 2023 Report and Decisions (the process through which we decided on the organisations to whom we would be offering multi-year funding), was a review of our support for English language theatre. This document sets out the Terms of Reference for this review.

Scope and Purpose of the Review

This review will inform Arts Council of Wales's future development and funding approaches and help determine where resources need to be directed to best support English language theatre for the greater public benefit to audiences.

To do this, the review will consider:

- What are the gaps in English language theatre provision; what are audiences missing and why? What do audiences want?
- How can we deliver ambitious work at scale that harnesses the nations creative skills and talents?
- What might be the possible models for doing this?
- What are the current avenues for supporting playwrights, theatre makers and associated professions and freelancers?
- What successes and examples of best practice that we can build on (asset-based approach)? What work is finding and connecting with an audience as the sector builds back post pandemic?
- How do we develop and scale and elevate productions to 'national level'? What does this require? What to theatre makers need and when?
- What level of Investment might be needed to support the ambition of the report.
- What is the importance of an English National Theatre of Wales as an institution to the nation?
- Mid-scale touring – how do we support work and models to take work to venues across Wales? What structures are required for theatre makers and venues?
- Talent and skills development – how do we build on existing good practice?

- What matters to the theatre sector and the associated professions in terms of talent development & retention and opportunities for new creative partnerships?
- The role of international partnerships and opportunities.
- What role can the Arts Council of Wales play in the above? Mindful of current investment in theatres and venues and the application of Lottery funds and maximising public value. Are there better ways to award funding from the Arts Council of Wales to support touring, theatre development and ambition?

We expect this work to produce the following:

- A SWOT analysis of English Language theatre in Wales. This will be informed through:
 - communication with audiences, stakeholders, makers, and communities – including those that are under-represented, do not have access or choose not to partake in existing theatre; and
 - supported by in-house ACW data analysis
- Provide an outline action plan for the sector, including short, medium and long term aims with action commencing in quarter one of 2025/26. This should
 - Provide a series of actionable recommendations for ACW-on what needs to be done to support the sector in line with the resources available and its own priorities.
 - Include recommendations relating to broader partnership and stakeholders and could include models from outside of Wales where appropriate.
 - The final agreed version be written and formatted in Welsh and English language versions in a clear and accessible manner.

Process of how we move forward in the review.

This work will be supported by a separate detailed project plan. The key milestones of the project are:

Draft Timeline

June	Project Director call published
July	Project Director role appointed. ACW Governance model agreed Final TOR Agreed

	“current picture” data shared Work commences
Nov	Draft review shared with council
Jan	Go public
April	Implementation of review findings for financial year 25/26

Rebecca Evans MS

Cabinet Secretary for Finance, Constitution and Cabinet Office

11 July 2024

Dear Rebecca,

Welsh Government Budget Timetable 2025-26

Thank you for your letter of 4 July inviting us to comment on the proposed timetable for consideration of the Draft Budget 2025-26.

I fully appreciate that the Welsh Government's budgetary position remains unclear until the UK Government confirms the date of its fiscal event. I also recognise that publishing a Draft Budget earlier, based on indicative figures only, would be problematic, and should only be done as a last resort.

Furthermore I welcome that the Draft Budget will be laid this year during term time. This is an important principle and ensures that Members of the Senedd have an opportunity to consider the Welsh Government's proposals in Plenary as soon as they are published.

However, I would like to challenge your assertion that there is "no better alternative in these current circumstances" to publishing the Draft Budget on 10 December 2024.

In particular, we believe that the proposed timetable does not sufficiently take into account the concerns raised by Committees following the scrutiny of last year's Draft Budget. These were shared

with you on 27 June 2024, and it is disappointing that you made no reference to them in your letter; the second year in a row which you have failed to do so.

In their responses, several Committees called for more time to be made available to scrutinise the Draft Budget. We agree that the shortened timescales last year made it extremely challenging for all Committees to meaningfully assess the impact the Draft Budget has on policy areas within their remit and, in particular, to incorporate views from stakeholders. We ask for further justification on why a longer scrutiny window was not considered, particularly as bringing forward the publication date of the Draft Budget to enable more evidence sessions to take place this side of the Christmas recess would be highly beneficial.

Calls were made for the Welsh Government to adhere to the two stage budget process, and we find it regrettable that you are proposing circumventing the process again this year; the sixth year in a row that this has happened. As a result, we call on you to prioritise facilitating a two stage approach this year, if there is time available after the UK Government's fiscal event takes place.

In addition, Committees requested that ministerial evidence papers should be published at the same time, or close to, the publication of the Draft Budget. Again, it is disappointing that you chose not to address this point your letter of 4 July, and we ask you to consider this when preparing the publication of the Draft Budget later in the year.

Flexible scheduling options in the Senedd was also suggested by Committees as a way to maximise scrutiny opportunities.

Whilst I understand that these are matters for the Business Committee, I would welcome your views on the following proposals relating to the scheduling of Senedd business, should the Draft Budget be laid before the Senedd on or later than 10 December:

- automatically enabling Finance Committee to hold additional meeting slots during Christmas recess, should the need arise;
- providing more meeting slots for Committees during the budget scrutiny window, including extending the business week and providing more slots for committees to take evidence from stakeholders and experts (which could be offset by cutting down on the length of Plenary meetings);
- allowing more time for the consideration of Committee reports during Plenary meetings to enable detailed policy discussions on each aspect of the Draft Budget.

I have raised similar issues in response to the Business Committee's letter consulting us on the budget timetable.

Finally, I would also like to challenge your views that “these arrangements are acceptable given the circumstances, which are driven, once again, by external factors beyond our immediate control”.

As Cabinet Secretary, you are ultimately responsible for setting the budget and the strategic management of the Welsh Government’s resources. I would also remind you that proposing the timing of the Draft Budget is within the Welsh Government’s gift.

Whilst the Committee has sympathy with the uncertainties faced by the Welsh Government in understanding its financial position, we strongly feel that this should be balanced by the need of the Senedd to scrutinise detailed proposals and that adequate time should be provided to reflect the magnitude of the tasks facing Committees. Detailed scrutiny which meets the needs and expectations of our stakeholders and the public at large cannot be achieved under the proposed timetable.

I welcome your willingness to revisit the proposed timetable once the date of the UK Government’s fiscal event is known. Given that the Chancellor has indicated her intention to announce this date before the end of this month, I ask you to provide an updated timetable as soon as possible.

A copy of this letter has been sent to the Business Committee, the Chairs of all Senedd Committees, , and the Trefnydd and Chief Whip.

Yours sincerely,



Peredur Owen Griffiths MS
Chair, Finance Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Mark Isherwood MS
Chair
Public Accounts and Public Administration
Committee

21 August 2024

Scrutiny of Accounts: Amgueddfa Cymru 2021-22

Dear Mark

Thank you for sharing your report, "Scrutiny of Accounts: Amgueddfa Cymru 2021-22". The Committee discussed the report at both its meetings on 10 and 17 July 2024.

I would be grateful if you would keep the Committee informed of your next steps with this work including any response received from the Welsh Government and any further outcomes. We will keep an eye on this issue over the coming months.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Children, Young People and Education Committee

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Delyth Jewell MS

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

05 August 2024

Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill

Dear Delyth,

Thank you and your fellow Committee Members for joining us at our recent technical briefing on the Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill. Following this briefing on 17 July, we considered our approach to scrutiny of the Bill, and agreed to invite members of your Committee to participate in our Stage 1 scrutiny.

This invite is being issued under Standing Order 17.49 where, with the permission of a Chair, Members who are not members of a committee can participate in a committee meeting but may not vote. This is the same basis with which some of our Committee participated in your inquiry into "The legislative framework which supports Welsh-medium education provision".

Annex 1 details the likely meetings where we will be carrying out scrutiny of the Bill. Exact timings are yet to be confirmed, but we will share these details as soon as we have them.

Please let us know by Monday 9 September which of your Members, if any, intend to join us for some or all of our Stage 1 scrutiny. We will ensure that they receive all the relevant information ahead of the relevant Committee meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English

Annex 1 – Committee Work Programme

Thursday 19 September	Public session: Oral evidence session 1: Member in Charge
Thursday 26 September	Public sessions: Oral evidence session 2 Oral evidence session 3 Oral evidence session 4 Oral evidence session 5
Wednesday 2 October	Public sessions: Oral evidence session 6 Oral evidence session 7 Oral evidence session 8
Wednesday 9 October	Public sessions: Oral evidence session 9 Oral evidence session 10 Oral evidence session 11 Oral evidence session 12
Thursday 17 October	Public sessions: Oral evidence session 13 Oral evidence session 14 Oral evidence session 15
Thursday 24 October	Public session: Oral evidence session 16: Member in Charge Private session: Key issues
Thursday 28 November	Private session: Consideration of draft report
Wednesday 4 December	Private session: Consideration of draft report
Friday 13 December	Stage 1 reporting deadline

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

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

Buffy Williams MS
Chair
Children, Young People and Education
Committee

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0300 200 6565

13 September 2024

Welsh Language and Education (Wales) Bill

Dear Buffy

Thank you for your letter (dated 5 August 2024) and for hosting the Committee at a recent Welsh Government briefing on the Bill.

Following a discussion on 17 July 2024, the Committee agreed that Heledd Fychan MS and Lee Waters MS would participate in your evidence sessions for Stage 1 of the Bill.

I look forward to the continued joint-working between the two committees.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Jane Hutt MS

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Social Justice,

Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Welsh Government

3 September 2024

Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024 to 2030

Dear Jane

I write to share the Committee's views on the Welsh Government's consultation on draft priorities for culture in Wales 2024 to 2030.

Committee's previous views on a Culture Strategy for Wales

The Committee **wrote** to your predecessor in September 2021 welcoming the commitment to creating a new Culture Strategy for Wales. At the time, the Committee accepted that there were a number of interrelated factors that could affect its introduction, including the Covid-19 pandemic and the-then UK Government Spending Review. The Committee noted at the time that it would expect the strategy to include specific activity, funding allocations and timelines for achieving any goals that are set.

The Committee **asked** your predecessor to provide budget allocations and an outline of the different government programmes that would underpin the strategy. During **scrutiny on the Draft Budget for 2023-24**, we were informed that the Welsh Government had appointed an external company to undertake stakeholder engagement to inform the development of the strategy. This work was overseen by a steering group, as confirmed in a **written statement** in March 2023. That statement noted that:

"Our focus remains on ensuring that the new Strategy is both pragmatic and ambitious, that it brings improved cohesion to how the sectors in scope work

together, and to how culture is reflected across the work of the Welsh Government."

Draft Budget 2024-25

In the meantime, it's been nearly three years since the Welsh Government committed to a new Culture Strategy to engage with the arts, culture and heritage sectors as part of its Programme for Government. During **Draft Budget scrutiny this year**, we asked the previous Deputy Minister what changes would be made to the strategy in light of budgetary challenges, and what about her expectations would have changed with regards to arms-length bodies ("ALBs") and the strategy. We **were told** then that the Welsh Government would:

"...balance the need to provide strategic direction and to maintain the long-term vision and ambitions contained in the draft strategy with a pragmatic approach to actions in support of delivering these ambitions that might be taken forward in the short-term...[we] will review Remit Letters in light of the Budget Settlement."

In February this year, we noted that budget reductions would affect the ability of ALBs to deliver what is required of them, and that the Welsh Government should initiate urgent discussions about their remit letters. We suggested that any such changes should be dovetailed with the publication of the Culture Strategy.

The Draft Budget for the current financial year outlined a budget reduction of 10.5 per cent (that is, compared with their indicative allocations for 2024-25) for those ALBs which would be key to the delivery of a Culture Strategy. In addition, it was confirmed that there would be a reduction of £1.233million funding allocated to the strategy.

We also noted our disappointment in our report in the Draft Budget when we were told that ministers "hoped" the strategy would be ready by the end of the year. We said at the time that:

"This lack of ambition means it will take nearly three years to deliver something that we were initially told would take six months. Given the impact of the pandemic, high energy costs and inflation, and significant budget reductions, it would be beneficial for the sector for more strategic direction to be shown."

Our view

The publication of this consultation is long overdue. We welcome the outline of the priorities and the accompanying ambitions as they have been set out. Despite this, we are concerned about the lack of detail which accompanies these priorities. It is unclear to us how they will be delivered, or by whom, or indeed what objectives will be set. In addition to this, and given the funding reductions that have been experienced by the culture sector in this financial year (as well as the amount allocated to the Culture Strategy), we are not sure how this will be funded, let alone achieved. The poor progress

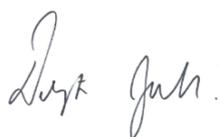
that's been seen in recent years when it comes to some Programme for Government commitments exacerbates our concerns. As one example, the "Museum of the North" project, which lacked clarity and detail, has been axed. There has also been slow progress with the National Contemporary Art Gallery project, which is now a shadow of what was initially proposed in the feasibility study. This recent history of non-delivery on projects within the culture sector is disappointing, and we need clear assurances as to what is planned as part of this strategy, and how it will be delivered.

There are, however, two specific points which we feel should be reflected, in addition to what's already been set out in the consultation. Firstly, the recent cuts to youth provision at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama have shone a light on the lack of higher levels of training available to pupils in this area. Given this, we would strongly recommend that any future strategy addresses the need for young people across Wales to be able to pursue excellence in music and drama.

Secondly, we would urge you to address and respond to the recommendations of our forthcoming report on culture and the new relationship with the European Union. The Committee received important, and concerning, evidence about the ways in which the UK's departure from the EU is affecting cross-border activities, and we would ask that our final recommendations also be treated as evidence for this consultation. We will share a copy of this report with you as soon as possible. Furthermore, a significant number of important and enduring relationships have been forged between Welsh and international cultural institutions over the years. We believe that our responsibilities for the scrutiny of the Welsh Government's International Strategy means we are best placed to assess the culture strategy from this perspective, and we think that the two should be interlinked.

To conclude, the culture sector has gone through a significant period of turmoil in recent years. It is still facing significant challenges as a result of recent shocks. The sector is crying out for the leadership it was hoped this strategy would provide. We would encourage the Welsh Government to share more detail about the strategy, including specific activity, funding allocations and timelines for achieving goals that are set. In doing so, we believe it would provide clarity to the sector who are dependent on the success of this strategy.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.





**Ymddiriedolaeth
Genedlaethol
National Trust**

lhosa.daly@nationaltrust.org.uk
Symudol/Mobile: 07483981345

28 August 2024

Sent to: culture@gov.wales
cc: Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

Dear Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Social Justice, Trefnydd and Chief Whip

National Trust Cymru welcomes the opportunity to engage with Welsh Government's consultation on Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024 to 2030.

Our response to this consultation reflects our position as a heritage and cultural organisation caring for Wales' natural and historic environment. National Trust Cymru looks after 46,000 hectares of land, 157 miles of coast and 18 of our nation's most special historic houses, gardens and industrial sites.

We are a key employer in Wales with over 750 staff members, and the support of 2000 volunteers, and 185,000 members. Our places welcome more than 1.8 million visitors a year, and we care for over 90,000 collection items in Wales.

National Trust Cymru welcomes the Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales. We are pleased that we were able to play a role in shaping the priorities through the Historic Environment Group, and as a result believe that the priorities set out are well aligned to those of the National Trust. Furthermore, we welcome that they are closely linked with the framework set out by the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

However, there are several areas we would like to highlight the importance of:

Firstly, National Trust Cymru shares Welsh Government's principle that every person in Wales has the right to access, create, participate in, and see themselves reflected in the cultural activity of our nation. However, there is a need to recognise within the draft priorities that the ambition set out for culture in Wales will not be realised without supporting resources and prioritisation by both the UK and Welsh Governments.

Currently, the UK has one of the lowest levels of government spending on culture among European nations and was one of a small minority of countries to reduce total culture spending per person between 2010 and 2022.

The State of the Arts report found that between 2009-10 and 2022-23, per person in real terms:

- Local government revenue funding of culture and related services decreased by 40% in Wales alongside rising cost and demand pressures on statutory services (especially social care).
- The Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS)'s core funding of cultural organisations decreased by 18% to only 0.17% of total public spending per person.
- The Arts Councils' core Government funding decreased by 25% in Wales.

Ymddiriedolaeth Genedlaethol/
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Dinefwr Park, Llandeilo
Carmarthenshire
SA19 6RT
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

Cyfarwyddwr Cymru / Director for Wales: Lhosa Daly

Swyddfa gofrestredig/Registered office:
Heelis, Kemble Drive, Swindon
Wiltshire SN2 2NA

Rhif elusen gofrestredig/Registered charity number 205846





28 August 2024

Over the same period:

- Tax relief for the creative industries increased by 649%.
- In 2017- 18 this investment exceeded the DCMS' core funding of cultural organisations for the first time.
- The BBC's total public and grant funding decreased by 23%.
- National Lottery grant funding for arts and heritage projects increased by 19%, but fluctuated considerably over the period and was lowest at the start of the pandemic.

As you can see from these figures, coupled with the Welsh Government's 10.5% budget cuts to cultural bodies such as Amgueddfa Cymru, Arts Council Wales and the National Library of Wales, this is a particularly challenging time for Wales' arts, culture and heritage sector. National Trust Cymru recognises that Welsh Government are facing exceptional funding pressures, and we appreciate that difficult operational decisions are having to be made in the face of reduced UK and Welsh Government budgets.

However, if the resourcing trends outlined above continue as they have done over the last fourteen years, Welsh Government and our Welsh arts, cultural, and heritage organisations will be unable to meet all three priorities set out in the consultation document, and the 20 ambitions that sit below them.

Arts, culture and heritage transform our lives, society and the economy for the better. Prior to the pandemic, the heritage sector contributed more than £1.72 billion to the Welsh economy. It is crucial that our national collections and cultural heritage are protected for future generations and that we do not lose valuable heritage craft skills which are critical to the conservation of our precious historic environment.

National Trust Cymru believes that to realise the ambition outlined in the draft priorities the Welsh Government should commit to a strategy for the arts, culture and heritage sector which sets out a clear action plan to ensure a resilient and sustainable future for the sector in Wales. This would help the sector to deliver the three priorities set out in the consultation and protect the sector from further cuts and de-prioritisation from future Governments (both UK and Wales).

National Trust Cymru also recognises that we all have a role to play and that collaboration across the sector remains key. We have been reaching out across the sector to offer our support as a delivery partner and would value a meeting to explore how we can play our part to support the Welsh Government and our cultural partners during this challenging time.

We would like to discuss further if there are collections or items with connections and relevance to National Trust Cymru sites that we may be able to exhibit to help maintain public access and engagement opportunities across Wales. For example, we recently visited St Fagans National Museum of History to see dresses connected to the Morgan family and Tredegar House, items we would be pleased to display at the property if there was an opportunity to do so.



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Symudol/Mobile: 07483981345

**Ymddiriedolaeth
Genedlaethol
National Trust**

28 August 2024

Secondly, it is important for Welsh Government to note that cuts to the arts, culture and heritage sector have a knock-on effect on direct public access and public benefit. National Trust Cymru were pleased to see the cultural and social justice portfolios merged under the most recent cabinet reshuffle, so that access for all, could be better addressed.

The National Survey for Wales was conducted between April 2022 and March 2023 and reported that 64% of people had attended an arts event in the last 12 months. Analysis using the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation reveals significant disparities in arts attendance. Among the least deprived fifth of the population, 70% had attended an arts event in the last 12 months, but among the most deprived fifth of the population, only 58% had done so.

Access to the cultural sector must be equal and unless funding for education, participation and careers in the cultural sector are protected the gap in access will only increase.

Lastly, we are playing our part to support skills and apprenticeships in the heritage, culture and tourism sector. However, there is still an urgent need to foster skills within the heritage sector, as well as a need to create spaces such as artist studios, and maker spaces. With job losses across the sector due to budget cuts, consideration must be given to how we ensure heritage skills are protected and preserved for future generations.

National Trust Cymru would like Welsh Government to work with the sector to create a workforce action plan which would focus on attracting and retaining the talent needed to safeguard the future of the sector and manifest the many social benefits of heritage, which we believe is a key factor in enabling the success of the priorities and ambitions outlined in the consultation document.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on the draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024 to 2030. National Trust Cymru would welcome a meeting with yourself or your officials to discuss further, if this is agreeable, please do let me know and I would be happy to arrange.

Diolch yn fawr,

Lhosa Daly,
Cyfarwyddwr Cymru/Director for Wales

Agenda Item 2.15

Consultation response form

Please complete this form in full and return to Channel4LicenceRenewal@ofcom.org.uk

Consultation title	Reconsultation: Channel 4 Licence Renewal
Full name	Delyth Jewell MS
Contact phone number	0300 200 6512
Representing (delete as appropriate)	The Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee
Organisation name	Welsh Parliament
Email address	SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

Confidentiality

We ask for your contact details along with your response so that we can engage with you on this consultation. For further information about how Ofcom handles your personal information and your corresponding rights, see [Ofcom's General Privacy Statement](#).

Your details: We will keep your contact number and email address confidential. Is there anything else you want to keep confidential? Delete as appropriate.	Nothing
Your response: Please indicate how much of your response you want to keep confidential. Delete as appropriate.	None
For confidential responses, can Ofcom publish a reference to the contents of your response?	Yes

Your response

Question	Your response
<p>Question 1: Do you agree with our assessment of the potential impact on specific groups of persons?</p>	
<p>Question 2: Do you agree with our Welsh language impact assessment?</p>	
<p>Question 3: Do you agree with our proposals that:</p> <p>a) until 31 December 2029, in each calendar year at least 9% of the hours of programmes made in the UK for viewing on the Channel 4 service must be produced outside England, and at least 9% of the expenditure on programmes made in the UK for viewing on the service must be allocated to the production of programmes outside England and referable to programme production at production centres in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?</p> <p>b) with effect from 1 January 2030, in each calendar year at least 12% of the hours of programmes made in the UK for viewing on the Channel 4 service must be produced outside England, and at least 12% of the expenditure on programmes made in the UK for viewing on the service must be allocated to the production of programmes outside England and referable to programme production at production centres in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland?</p>	<p>As outlined in the Committee’s report, State of Play: Public Service Broadcasting in Wales, broadcasting plays an important role in portraying Welsh identity, as well as in our democracy, by ensuring that systems of government are held to account. There has been an inadequate supply of media content in Wales for a long time.</p> <p>In the above report, the Committee called for increased spending by both BBC and ITV in Wales. It was recommended that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BBC’s spend on English-language television content in Wales should grow year-on-year until it approaches parity with the BBC’s spend on English language content in Scotland. • Ofcom should include a requirement for the Channel 3 licence in Wales to produce a greater proportion of network content in Wales. <p>Given the above, the Committee believes the current proposals are not challenging enough. The proposed increased quotas should be introduced sooner, with consideration given to increasing the out-of-England quotas in subsequent years. The Committee thinks there is merit in exploring the Welsh Government's proposals for nation-specific spend requirements. At the very least, Ofcom should require a mechanism to ensure an equitable spread of out-of-England spend across the nations of the UK.</p>

Question	Your response
	<p>The Committee also believes that Channel 4 should do more to ensure that people across Wales can see their stories reflected on screen and feel represented by the services they receive. The Committee is of the view that it is equally important that Ofcom is ambitious in what it asks from Channel 4 to improve its representation and portrayal of Welsh Life.</p>
<p>Question 4: Do you agree with our proposed guidance for C4C on how it should report on its MoE production in its SMCP?</p>	

Please complete this form in full and return to Channel4LicenceRenewal@ofcom.org.uk.

Jane Hutt MS

Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Social Justice, Trefnydd
and Chief Whip
Welsh Government

9 September 2024

Scrutiny of the former Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice

Dear Jane,

I write with some questions that have arisen in light of your predecessor's appearance at our meeting on 10 July 2024 for scrutiny of the Welsh Government's culture activity. There are some matters on which our committee would appreciate some clarification.

Difference in budget allocations between 2014-15 and 2024-25

Given the changes and the impact in this year's budget, we would like to know how do the Welsh Government's budget allocations for culture and sport compare in 2024-25 budget to the 2014-15 budget in real-terms?

The Museum of the North Wales

During the session, the former Cabinet Secretary confirmed that the Welsh Government remained committed to developing the National Slate Museum site at Llanberis. She also confirmed, however, that plans for the Museum of North Wales would not progress further "at this moment." When asked about whether the National Slate Museum and the plans for a Museum of North Wales are separate initiatives, she said that there was some uncertainty about the concept of a national museum for North Wales.

Understanding the status of these plans is crucial for stakeholders, as well as the broader community who are invested in the cultural heritage of North Wales. I would therefore like to request clarification on the following points:

- Are the plans for a separate Museum of North Wales distinct from the development of the National Slate Museum at Llanberis?
- Has the decision not to progress with the Museum of North Wales been made on a temporary basis, or have these plans been permanently set aside?

The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama

During the session, the former Cabinet Secretary spoke about her intention to discuss the proposed closure of the junior music and drama departments at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with the Cabinet Secretary for Education. As you will be aware, the situation has developed since that meeting, and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama confirmed its decision to proceed with the closure on 19 July 2024.

The Committee remains deeply concerned about the abruptness of the closure, which leaves a significant void in music and drama education for young people in Wales. In light of this fact, I would like to request the following information:

- Could you please provide an update on any further discussions with the Cabinet Secretary for Education about the closure?
- What steps is the Welsh Government taking to generate alternative opportunities in music and drama for our talented young people?
- What measures are being implemented to secure sustainable pathways into professional training within Wales, so as to ensure that our young people do not have to seek opportunities elsewhere?

Welsh National Opera

During the session, the former Cabinet Secretary noted that she was in the process of writing to the Arts Council of Wales and Arts Council England to explore potential avenues for securing additional funding for Welsh National Opera.

Given the importance of this matter to the continued success and sustainability of Welsh National Opera, I would appreciate an update about what has transpired from your correspondence with these organisations. Specifically, I would appreciate any information about:

- The responses you have received from the Arts Council of Wales and Arts Council England.
- Any steps being taken to secure additional funding, or steps towards this
- Any further actions that may be required or anticipated to support the Welsh National Opera.

Understanding the latest situation will be invaluable for our ongoing dialogue with Welsh National Opera.

Arts Council Wales

During the session, we discussed the Arts Council's progress towards the publication of its new strategic plan, the review of English language theatre, and the evaluation of the investment review grant application process. We remain concerned about the delays in these important work streams. The extended timeframes are creating significant uncertainty within the sector, affecting those organisations who rely on clear direction and guidance from the Arts Council. We would like to understand the reasons behind these delays and the challenges the Arts Council is facing in completing this work within the originally set timeframes.

Could you please provide further information on the following points:

- The specific reasons for the delays.
- Any obstacles that have hindered the timely completion of the review of English language theatre.
- The current status of these work streams, and revised timelines for completion of them.

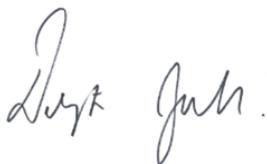
We believe that transparency about these matters is crucial for maintaining trust and confidence within the sector.

Broadcasting and media policy development

I would be grateful if you would please provide further information about how the £1 million which was originally set aside for the Broadcasting and Communications Advisory Group has been allocated, and what work will be undertaken by the Advisory Group.

I would be grateful for a response to the Committee's questions by 7 October 2024.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Agenda Item 2.17

Good Morning / Bore Da,

Please find the Welsh Rugby Union's audited annual report for the 2023 financial year, available at this link <https://community.wru.wales/the-wru/reports/> from 12 noon today, Thursday 25th June.

A draft version of the financial statements was first published last autumn and since then we have been working through the way in which certain transactions were accounted for with our new auditors.

The accounts describe the same turnover for the company (£101.3m) in the year, but for technical reasons the Group's recorded loss in 2023 and profit in 2022 are different after fair value movements in the options and investments associated with CVC Capital Partners transactions with the Six Nations, where the Group is a shareholder.

These fair value movements mean the accounts now show a loss of £14.0m for 2023 (previously stated as a £4.9m loss in November 2023) and a profit in the previous year, 2022, of £37.3m (previously stated as £2.9m profit in November 2023).

The annual report also shows that during the year, despite the tough financial climate the game faced, the WRU was able to increase its investment in Welsh rugby to £65.3m, up £2.4m or 3.8% on the previous year.

This same description of the amount re-invested in the game can be found in the draft accounts published in November, which helps illustrate that the Group's trading performance has remained unaffected.

The WRU has a stated policy of maximum reinvestment into the game annually, rather than retaining profits.

Most of the changes that have been made are to non-cash items.

These adjustments are historical and there is little effect on our on-going business due to restatements made.

They are set firmly in the past and do not impact the trading performance of the Group.

We should also note that we are not alone as a rugby union in this, with other unions around the UK and overseas in similar positions.

The WRU announced its new five-year headline '**One Wales**' strategy last month with a vision to '**unite people and inspire passion in our Welsh rugby nation**'.

The vision is underpinned by a mission and commitment to '**work together to create exceptional experiences and opportunities for everyone through our game**'.

The strategy promises a wide-ranging plan to grow income through a review of every facet of the professional game and other revenue streams.

Since the closing of the financial year in June 2023, we have continued to face challenging financial circumstances, performing below the forecasts set for the 2024 financial year.

We are in the process of agreeing a capital repayment holiday on the repayment terms of certain loan agreements, the terms of which we would mirror in the related onward lends to the regional clubs.

And we are implementing a number of cost savings for the 2025 financial year and beyond, in order to ensure a sustainable financial performance in the short and long term, while also maximising our investment in rugby.

Our ambition is to make progressive choices which will reimagine what has gone before and we will share wider details and decisions underpinning our plan in autumn 2024.

To read the WRU Annual Report click here <https://community.wru.wales/the-wru/reports/> from 12 noon today.

With the abridged report published in November 2023 and a 2022/23 season review available at on the same page.

A Welsh language version of the introduction to the report, which makes similar points to those highlighted above, can be found on the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) website.

Yours,

Abi



**Abi Tierney | WRU Group Chief
Executive Officer**

**Welsh Rugby Union Group / Grwp
Undeb Rygbi Cymru**

Welsh Rugby Union Group, Principality
Stadium, Westgate Street

Email/ Epost: atierney@wru.wales

Values: Excellence | Integrity | Success | Courage | Family | Humour
Gwerthoedd: Rhagoriaeth | Cywirdeb | Llwyddiant | Dewrder | Teulu | Hiwmor

Agenda Item 2.18

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

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Agenda Item 5

IFRCS52: Impact of Funding Reductions for Culture and Sport

This document provides a translation of correspondence received from Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Chief Executive, National Library of Wales. ”

IFRCS52 Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Chief Executive, National Library of Wales

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol | Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Effaith Gostyngiadau Cyllid ar Ddiwylliant a Chwaraeon | Impact of Funding Reductions for Culture and Sport

Ymateb gan: Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Brif Weithredwr Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru | Evidence from: Rhodri Llwyd Morgan, Chief Executive, National Library of Wales

1. What impacts has reduced funding had on your organisation and sector so far?

A significant impact. For some years, the Library's budget has relied on a financial contribution from the Library's private funds to make up a year-end deficit. Following the announcement of the 10.5% cut in December 2023, it was decided to offer staff a voluntary exit route to try to avoid compulsory redundancies. Some 24 members of staff have left or are about to leave, which equates to 10% of the core staff. We are trying to adapt and mitigate any impact on services to the public.

High inflation is also reflected in staff salary settlements, and even if the budget had remained the same, there would still be a significant risk with regard to maintaining staffing levels given the salary settlement increase of 5% secured in 2023-24. In light of the cut to Grant in Aid for 2024-25, it represents a gross reduction of 15.5%.

We have had a jobs freeze in place since January 2024, except for externally funded project staff. There may be some exceptional cases or circumstances to this, but overall it is difficult to foresee any way of funding further jobs within the current structure.

With inflation at a high, capital project delivery is 20% more expensive than before COVID. Progressive decarbonisation schemes were in place to make the Library net zero by 2030, but the financial climate, including inflation levels and uncertainty about future funding, has increased the risk to expenditure on

decarbonisation measures, thereby placing at increased risk their positive impact on the environment and sustainable development commitments.

The cost of electricity and gas has increased significantly (33%) with heavy distribution costs. The Library has reduced the number of units of electricity it uses, but the cost continues to increase significantly. Essential maintenance costs therefore put further pressure on staffing and revenue budgets.

2. What measures have you taken in light of it, such as changing what you do and how you do it?

Staffing costs are the single highest item, and the Library responded to the cut by offering a voluntary exit route and by freezing recruitment to vacant positions. We are striving to mitigate the impact of this on services to the public and to avoid increasing staff workload.

The obvious impact of the cut and the preceding period of contraction is the rationalisation, deceleration or delay to some of the Library's basic functions in terms of developing collections and securing access to them, affecting published, unique (archive, audiovisual, graphic), and digital collections. Priority is inevitably given to collections that require urgent conservation work and to work that has successfully attracted external grant funding.

We are developing a new Strategic Plan and introducing a Change and Renewal Programme which looks at several operational threads, including training, internal communication, succession planning, change readiness, and adjustments to work patterns. An example of these adjustments is the change to the shift pattern for Security staff (who also clean and greet the public) to bring about a reduction in overtime paid from January 2025. This new pattern was developed within the Security team itself.

Through the Change Programme we are also trying to raise our sights to ensure that user needs remain at the front and centre. Customer Care training was provided so that everyone felt confident working in public places or in dealing with the public.

The autumn will see the introduction of a new management and leadership training programme.

Furthermore, we have updated the Financial Regulations in order not only to simplify financial processes, but also to give clarity to staff regarding value for money.

Clearly, we have reviewed the budget to see where cuts can be made, taking into account each activity and how important it is to the Library's objectives, and to seek opportunities to increase income, e.g. through the retail outlets and commercial services.

The Library remains dependent on money from its private funds – ultimately derived from public donations towards the Library's activity – to finance the shortfall.

We have also looked at staff engaged in work on projects, to ensure that the budgets reflect the projects' true cost.

It may be necessary to review storage and preservation conditions and consider the practicality and implications of downgrading the preservation conditions of less sensitive collections.

3. To what extent will these impacts be irreversible (e.g. venues closing, or specialist skills being lost rather than a temporary restriction in activities)?

We do not anticipate closing the Library's permanent location in Aberystwyth. However, it is inevitable that opening hours and service hours will need to be revised and the impact of any change on the experience and satisfaction for users and the public will be the subject of careful consideration.

We have lost some staff expertise – expertise that is unique to specific, physical and digital collections. Also lost were skills and knowledge that were key to collaboration across the sector to support local libraries and archives. The loss of these jobs and skills is going to affect the wider sector's ability to deal with procurement in the future.

It is likely that the Library will need to review its collection policy - this may necessitate prioritisation, thereby leaving the wishes of some partners and stakeholders unfulfilled. The proportion of collections accepted (of the proposals received) has fallen, while the backlog of collections that have not been fully described has increased. This is a risk to the Library's reputation as the ability to collect and provide comprehensive access is considered a core activity. Such activity is less likely to attract external funding. The number of collections that are

offered or fall within the collection policy is increasing rapidly. The demands of processing digital collections remain high as the Library adapts to new ways of working. Securing comprehensive descriptions and access is now often only possible through externally funded projects e.g. the Ann Clwyd Archive, the Peace Petition and the work of digitising the Broadcasting Archive's scripts.

The Library will also carefully select which projects can be undertaken in the future, as additional commitments would risk increased pressure falling on already overburdened staff. The Library already operates a system for assessing business plans more rigorously and for attempting to ascertain the full economic costs of any new project and activity.

However, we are determined that we can adapt sufficiently in order to continue to maintain the core functions - the statutory requirements of legal deposit, preservation and development of unique collections (archives, audiovisual, graphics, born digital), whilst striving to ensure a high quality visitor experience and reaching out to engage more widely across Wales. Ambition is naturally tempered by resources.

4. What interventions would you like to see from the Welsh Government, beyond increased funding?

- Publication of the Culture Strategy following the current consultation and maintaining the status of the culture policy area by retaining a Cabinet Secretary with responsibility for it.
- Flexibility to carry more grant money over from one year to the next, as unanticipated funds are received late in the financial year due to underspends in other areas or specific circumstances, and the offer to carry over (with a robust business plan) enables spending to be planned in the most effective way possible to get value for money.
- Sufficient time to be able to prepare for cuts in funding, especially in relation to the Grant in Aid which funds the remainder of core staff.
- Ensure that project funds are sufficient to finance the full economic requirements and costs of that plan and thereby reduce the risk that core resources will have to be employed to maintain the project.
- Release council tax for organisations that are sponsored.

- Lobby the power companies for better terms for electricity so that the Welsh Government buys from a provider on behalf of the public bodies.

5. To what extent do the impacts you describe fall differently on people with protected characteristics and people of a lower socioeconomic status?

In the case of the voluntary exit scheme, a fair and open application process was drawn up. An impact assessment was also prepared to ensure no disparate effect on people with protected characteristics and people of lower socioeconomic status. We understand that the terms of the Library's offer are generous in comparison with the public sector,

Library staff salaries are lower than those in the public sector in general, but the workforce enjoy other benefits that mitigate this to some extent. However, the Library is a significant employer in Aberystwyth and mid Wales. It is also significant as an employer that operates principally through the medium of Welsh.

A jobs freeze or further reductions will lead to fewer opportunities in terms of attracting a workforce to work in the Welsh language in an area that can be described as being very relevant to areas of higher density linguistic significance.

In considering the Library's proposal, we continually review how activities can attract income, balanced against the drive to avoid a disparate impact on people with protected characteristics and people of lower socioeconomic status. For example, we offer free entry to the Play Area for children aged 3 to 7. We have discussed parking charges for the car park, but for now have decided that such a step would have a negative impact on people of lower socioeconomic status.

6. Do you have any other points you wish to raise within the scope of this inquiry?

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

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Agenda Item 7

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

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IFRCS35 Angela Thomas, Head of Governance, Arts Council of Wales

Senedd Cymru | Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg, Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol | Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

Effaith Gostyngiadau Cyllid ar Ddiwylliant a Chwaraeon | Impact of Funding Reductions for Culture and Sport

Ymateb gan: Angela Thomas, Pennaeth Llywodraethu, Cyngor Celfyddydau Cymru | Evidence from: Angela Thomas, Head of Governance, Arts Council of Wales

1. What impacts has reduced funding had on your organisation and sector so far?

Arts Council - Lottery income has had to be used in part to supplement the cuts in grant in aid where it's appropriate to do so and we are able to, under the separate Directions. This has put additional pressure on our lottery programmes and an overall reduction in the number of applications we are now able to fund, with some grant rounds achieving a success rate as low as 35% due to budget constraints. Applicants and other Lottery distributors have noted increased demand and competition.

Venues - The cuts have had a significant impact across the venues sector -which is still feeling the impact of the pandemic and most have not returned to pre-pandemic levels of attendance. It was struggling before, and this has exacerbated a fragile situation. Added to this the associated high cost of catering and refreshments product is adding to the overall deficit.

Whilst live theatre and music has seen some increase in audience levels, other areas such as cinema are still in significant decline. This would have a knock on detrimental effect on the overall financial health of an organisation as cinema profit would traditionally underpin other activity.

Funding cuts will be felt strongly including through staffing cuts and the number of artists/creatives employed to deliver programmes. Therefore the initial impact is wider, spreading to individual artists who traditionally find good employment opportunities in the sector.

2. What measures have you taken in light of it, such as changing what you do and how you do it?

Arts Council – In our recent Investment Review we have only been able to award 13 of the 81 successful applicants in full. We have had to ask 63 of our multi year funding organisations to scale back and remodel their proposals and planned activity whilst still ensuring our key commitments are still progressed, which has resulted in renegotiating separate funding agreements for each of these for 2024-25. Following the recent 10.5% cut we have now had consider how we will budget future rounds of applications for organisations to become multi-year funded in line with our published commitments.

We have remodelled our own staff structure and overheads, and to reduce the impact of the cuts on the sector, with only 2.5% of the cut being passed to the multi-year funded organisations. This has seen us reducing our own staffing by over 10%, mainly through VR but some compulsory at Senior level We have also downsized office space and reprioritised some current work programmes.

We will be undertaking an evaluation of our current engagement with our Associates, individuals who bring valuable, living experience, particularly from under-represented groups and communities, to our grant decision, key projects and policy making and receive fair daily payment terms for doing so. We will need to identify how we may continue to engage in this way, in the context of increased financial pressures.

We have had to take a new direction for Collectorplan, our flagship programme, due to the cuts and resulting lack of funds to invest in a digital upgrade. Funding previously allocated to Cymru in Fenis has been significantly reduced, whilst we review all our showcasing work.

We are listening to the sector to identify how we may support more effectively, launching our National Conversations at the Eisteddfod. We are reflecting and discussing internally/with our sector partners what the long-term needs of the sector are and how we can best respond/change our offer. We have reduced the budget for some of our grant programmes, including Capital and the budget for Creative Steps that supports applicants who have experienced barriers to accessing our funding has seen a 25% reduction whilst we endeavour to ensure opportunity for funding is available across the whole of the sector. We have commissioned an economic impact assessment of our work to help inform future funding considerations and strategy.

Sector – with Welsh Government assistance we have provided additional funding for jobs protection, which has been welcomed and saved 38 jobs (FTE29.5), however cost of living increases have had a large impact and it's clear that organisations are finding it more difficult to balance the books and some have had to make difficult decisions about their programme of activity. Job protection has bought time for organisations to review their business models as there is no guarantee of job protection funding in future years.

3. To what extent will these impacts be irreversible (e.g. venues closing, or specialist skills being lost rather than a temporary restriction in activities)?

Venues - this has meant fewer programmes with less on offer for audiences to see. It has also meant less investment in new or experimental work, and less touring of product or co-producing – all of which are seen as 'higher risk' for attracting audiences and – in the case of production/touring – much higher upfront costs to the venue or company which are harder to recuperate through ticket sales which are unknown and fully reliant on audience numbers, which are often unpredictable. The cost of touring in set build, accommodation and fuel is limiting the amount of product available and the amount of product we can fund.

Many organisations are having to reduce their own core staff and/or not allocating pay increases. This will inevitably lead to potential closure of venues and loss of skilled personnel to either other sectors and/or Wales. Once a venue is closed, reopening it becomes much more difficult. Artists are also leaving the sector to take up non creative roles that offer more financial security.

New or proposed is being shelved in favour of tried and trusted activity. The cost and risks are lower.

There are organisations which have been successful in securing future funding but are still in a fragile position with a few experiencing cash flow problems and have requested advances for upcoming payments. Organisations continue to work against the backdrop of increasing costs and audiences that are feeling the effects of their own cost of living increases, meaning that many are anecdotally reporting a shift in buying patterns. Organisations continue to cite capacity issues as they are short staffed and do not have the necessary resource to fulfil requirements.

Our funding works in partnership, across Wales, with local authorities and other funding organisations. However, whilst local authorities in particular are having to make difficult decisions in response to the current financial crisis, as Culture –

whilst a Future Generation goal - is not a statutory responsibility it is often the first area for cuts. Therefore the current and future health of culture is reliant not only on the funding for the Arts Council but also its many partners, including local authorities.

Another cause for concern are the difficulties facing Higher Education and the impact of reduced offers for the creative workforce and the arts, now and for future generations. Universities in Wales also house arts centres but with the need for significant cuts in university budgets they are also coming under increased scrutiny as to long term sustainability. We are already seeing job freezing as the norm in many institutions.

4. What interventions would you like to see from the Welsh Government, beyond increased funding?

A clear and meaningful commitment to the Arts and Culture sector which is valued in real terms. We have effectively received a reduction in our Welsh Government funding of 40% when compared to 2010 funding levels.

Increased collaboration and synergy across Welsh Government departments as to how Arts and Culture can significantly contribute to other areas such as the Cultural Economy, health and Education.

Longer term funding agreements. Annual budget settlements do not allow us to effectively plan over the longer term, which is a key principle under the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act.

Arts Council to have more flexibility on how and when funding from Welsh Government may be spent, allowing us to employ more effective longer-term strategies. Increased notice of funding would also support this and allow for us to plan more effectively and longer term.

A more open negotiation with Welsh Government on our level of funding and the requirements of our own Term of Government Remit Letter, ie what is achievable on reduced funding, and what we should be prioritising in terms of our core work and purpose.

That culture and arts support becomes a statutory responsibility

5. To what extent do the impacts you describe fall differently on people with protected characteristics and people of a lower socioeconomic status?

This has been significant and impacts both our own equalities commitments including our joint Widening Engagement action plan with Amgueddfa Cymru, our Creative Steps funding programme and our contribution to the Welsh Government's plans including Anti Racist Wales Action Plan and LGBTQ+ Action Plan. Though we have protected these principles in our Investment Review and new Strategic Plan these are coming under increased pressure to deliver.

It is often the case that, in the time of pressure, including financial pressures, it is the socially, economically and culturally marginalised and less well represented and heard individuals, groups and communities in our society that suffer first.

Outreach programmes are one of the first casualties under financial pressures as this is seen as additional to the core work that attracts audience numbers and therefore more at risk. Engaging with communities effectively and meaningfully will have an impact on audiences, however longer-term strategies are often those which suffer when the priority is short-term survival.

Any closure of venues means it is harder to find suitable spaces to deliver creative activity. This also creates an equity of access issue as venues are not distributed evenly across Wales, in the poorer or more rural areas there is less choice and if one venue closes there is less infrastructure to support transport to other venues. For some people, public transport is not a viable solution.

Artists who themselves are from excluded groups or lower socio economic background struggle to enter/sustain a career in the arts as the infrastructure is not there to support them. Programmes such as WAHWN's Stepping In <https://wahwn.cymru/stepping-in> has recently been piloted but is only a very small start.

6. Do you have any other points you wish to raise within the scope of this inquiry?

Crisis currently facing the culture sector is impacting on all areas of our work, those we work in partnership with and across the Sector as a whole.

Many organisations facing concerning cash flow issues, and are not sustainable in the longer term.

Our own reduced funding resulting in grants rounds being far more competitive and declining success rate as a result of increased applications as more seek financial support.

There is an urgent need to review the level of funding in Wales for Arts and Culture as the declining pattern from 2010 is not sustainable. It is a 40% cut.