

Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

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| Meeting Venue: | For further information contact: |
| Videoconference via Zoom | Manon George |
| Meeting date: 9 July 2020 | Committee Clerk |
| Meeting time: 13.00 | 0300 200 6565 |
| | SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales |

Informal pre-meeting: 13.00 – 13.30

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

- 2 COVID-19: Evidence session on the impact of the COVID 19 outbreak on the heritage sector, museums and archives**
(13:30 – 14:45) (Pages 1 – 17)

David Anderson, National Museum Wales
Pedr ap Llwyd, The National Library of Wales
Justin Albert, Director for Wales, National Trust
Andrew White, Director of Wales, Heritage Lottery Fund

- 3 Paper(s) to note**
 - 3.1 Correspondence with the Welsh Government on support for local media**
(Pages 18 – 23)

- 4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for remainder of the meeting**



5 Private debrief

(14:45 – 15:00)

6 Inquiry into the effect of COVID 19 on creative arts: discussion of draft report

(15:00–15:30)

(Pages 24 – 43)

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Ymddiriedolaeth
Genedlaethol
National Trust

Inquiry into Covid-19 & its impact on Heritage Industries

The National Trust in Wales exists to care for special places in Wales so that they can be enjoyed by everyone, for ever. We place great importance on the conservation, management and enjoyment of the natural and historic environment both within and beyond our boundaries. We are the guardian of 18 of Wales's finest castles, houses, gardens and industrial sites alongside 157 miles of coastline and 46,000 hectares of land. We currently have six thousand volunteers, two-hundred thousand National Trust members live in Wales, and we welcomed 1.8 million visitors to our properties last year. We are committed to being a key player in the heritage and cultural sectors - building relationships with local communities, partnership networks and supporting artists to help us interpret our places in new ways to appeal to a wider audience.

What has been the immediate impact of Covid-19 on the sector?

Coronavirus is already having a significant financial impact on organisations across the heritage and cultural sectors, and the National Trust is no exception to this. We rely on the support of our members, donors, volunteers and grant-making bodies, as well as income from commercial activities such as retail and catering, to look after the places in our care. More than 90% of our land is held inalienably, so it cannot be sold or developed without the consent of Parliament. This means we have a duty to look after these places forever, for the public to enjoy, and our financial decisions must prioritise this ongoing duty of care.

All of our pay-for-entry sites in Wales, including cafes and shops have been closed since mid-March, and will remain so until the Welsh Government advice supports reopening in Wales. This means that we are experiencing a complete loss of visitor income during what would otherwise be one of our busiest periods. Beyond the immediate loss of trading income, we have also seen some membership cancellations from those who feel they can no longer afford it, or that they can't take full advantage of its benefits in the current circumstances. We estimate these impacts together are likely to amount to a shortfall on budget of up to £200million this year across the National Trust. This is despite carrying out significant cost saving measures, including retracting pay rises, making deep non-staff cuts in both day-to-day and project expenditure, freezing recruitment and using all Government support available, including furloughing up to 80% of Trust staff.

The impact of this reduction in income streams due to closure, combined with a slow recovery in our visitor volumes and memberships, will be significant, with longer-term repercussions for our activities; this risks affecting both our ability to care for our historic buildings and countryside on a day-to-day basis, and our

longer-term conservation goals. This reduction in income will also severely restrict our ability to invest in the cultural sector as previously planned.

The National Trust has been around for 125 years this year, and its leadership is clear that it can and will take critical steps to ensure it will continue to meet its charitable aims long into the future. For the Trust, the immediate response has primarily been about limiting unrecoverable costs over the coming months while our trading and membership income is heavily reduced. However, for the wider sectors and partners with whom we work, urgent issues of liquidity and cash flow are still a significant concern. Jobs are still at risk across the sectors we work with – as are the futures of our natural and historic places and collections. We must protect these key assets which will be integral to the long-term recovery of the nation. The cultural sector has been particularly severely hit in Wales as the Arts Council Wales has not been able to maintain reserves as seen in the Arts Council England, thus reducing support available to workers who are most at risk due to nature of their employment – mostly self-employed or working contract-to-contract.

How effectively has the support provided by the Welsh Government, UK Government, and arms-length bodies addresses the sector's needs?

We were pleased that the UK Government has made some additional support available to charities providing front-line services, but it's worth noting that this funding will do little to support charities in our sectors. These organisations may not be offering the emergency support to people right now that is so important, but they will be crucial to the longer-term health and wellbeing of the nation. We therefore support wider sector calls for further measures to protect charities' liquidity in order to secure the long-term future of the sector, which could include further grants aimed at promoting third sector resilience, or further targeted reliefs, such as by prepaying gift aid based on last year's levels as a cash boost and guaranteed income.

The UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention scheme has been extremely welcome, and the Trust has been able to take advantage of it. The recent addition of flexible working whilst on furlough will be of particular benefit and we are investigating how to implement this - as whilst properties and reserves may be closed to the public, essential conservation needs to continue across all sites; a common challenge to all in the heritage and conservation sectors (and one the Government has already recognised as being a problem when it comes to animal welfare in zoos). As we move towards the next stage of lockdown greater flexibility will be extremely valuable, particularly to help ensure that sites can accommodate the social distancing measures that will still need to be in place when the lockdown starts to lift, and work can be done on site in preparation for reopening and welcoming visitors back.

We welcome the fact that funders have responded with flexibility towards application deadlines and conditions for grants. However, we believe there is more that could be done by them to help mitigate the financial impacts of this crisis on our sectors. In particular we would like to see the lottery funds going further in their actions to support the future of their sectors. The announced £50 million emergency support funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund will make a significant difference for many organisations. But these funds are not sufficient to meet the needs of the sectors they serve. NLHF's funding will only be available for current

grantees and one third of respondents to their survey looking for help were outside that category. There is also little or no support for private sector heritage organisations currently available.

The emergency funding landscape is complex, with separate processes for the different lottery funds, central government funds and other funders. This is quite onerous and simplification or pooling of funds might potentially make a big difference to organisations having to deal with multiple application processes.

One of specific challenges facing National Trust Wales is that while our organisation works to a delegated model, we are part of a national organisation that means we have felt that we often fall outside the eligibility criteria for Welsh Government funding mechanisms. Our properties are also remaining closed to meet Welsh Government guidelines, meaning that while our colleagues in England can start to look to the future, we are taking an even greater hit on our reserves that we will have fewer opportunities to recoup.

What are the likely long-term impacts of Covid-19 on the sector, and what support is needed to deal with these?

Re-opening our sites is likely to be a phased and cautious process, and we don't expect to return to full re-opening of all our places and full offer immediately. It's also likely that the public confidence in the safety of visiting our places will take time to restore – for example, recent polling by ALVA found that 21% of people would not feel comfortable taking a day out to a visitor attraction until a treatment or vaccine is available. There appears to be notably more anxiety in people's minds about visiting indoor spaces, which will particularly impact on museums and indoor attractions (including historic houses and mansions).

We also work with a significant number of volunteers (over 55,000 across the UK) who help support our places, including our visitor offer. Almost 13,500 of our volunteers are over 70, and while it's unclear at present what the impact of coronavirus will be on our volunteers, many will be shielding or in higher-risk categories, and so it's likely that there will be some impact on the number of people who are able to support our work on site.

We will continue to face limitations on our ability to generate income when we do start to reopen our places and it will be essential that government support, including the furlough scheme, remains in force until such time as our sites can be fully operational. The imminent "return to work" scheme which allows some level of continued support for the payment of salaries while operations are resuming will make the return furloughed staff extremely welcome, and we support the proposals being made by Wildlife and Countryside Link on this. However, it will also be extremely important that the existing furlough scheme is kept available for as long as possible to help keep minimise running costs from those staff who are not immediately needed, and until such time as our sites can be fully operational.

We will need support to reopen our sites safely for both people and for nature when the lockdown ends. There will be challenges in making sure our places are ready, and that the wider tourism infrastructure is able to support visitors too, e.g. in terms of public transport and other local services. It would be helpful for the Welsh Government to learn and react from seeing the impact of lockdown easing in England and Northern Ireland. There are some valuable lessons to learn.

As lockdown begins to ease in other parts of the UK, this in itself has created new challenges for the National Trust in Wales as different government guidance requires operational adaptations. Communicating with members, visitors and the public at large has been complex. We are already seeing beauty spots put under pressure as visitors return to Wales, not recognising that we are subject to different regulations.

The recent suggestions that the self-catering accommodation may be able to re-open later in the summer would bring with it welcome income, provided there is the support to enable safe opening, and that the additional visitors this would bring can be supported by local infrastructure.

In the medium to long term accessing funding for ongoing conservation projects is likely to be challenging, as grant funding that would otherwise have been available to support conservation project delivery is being repurposed. For example, the National Lottery Heritage Fund emergency funding has been drawn forward and repurposed from existing money and relies on a halt in wider funding until at least October. This will have long term impacts beyond this immediate pandemic,

It is important that Welsh Government supports local councils through adequate revenue grant to maintain cultural infrastructure in communities. Further bouts of austerity experienced by local councils are likely to lead to the tipping point for regional museums, theatres and cinemas further hollowing out city and town centres. Parks and green spaces are also at risk, despite the important role that they have played for people during lockdown, with many authorities already having substantially cut budgets for green space provision over recent years.

To address these issues and ensure that quality of place, culture and community are at the heart of a future recovery, a new approach to funding might be needed. Pooling funding to create larger pots of funding and larger grants available, with a range of funders contributing – from the lottery funds to the research councils and income generating tax schemes such as those from Landfill taxes, designated funds, and even sources such as Section 106 payments, might enable a more comprehensive and coherent approach. This approach is not just about pooling money, but represents a different way of working and a different approach to supporting the sector and the innovation needed in ways of working to support this is not underestimated.

Welsh Government could play an invaluable and leading role in creating a platform to leverage funding schemes together to create opportunities at scale, and through supplementing existing resources with additional funds. There may also be opportunities to explore whether private sector corporate social responsibility funds could contribute to these wider pools of funding. This could go a long way in helping ensure the longer-term sustainability of our sectors, as well as putting in place a funding mechanism for organisations to undertake work to contribute towards longer term economic recovery - boosting buildings conservation activity, preserving and expanding existing jobs and skills, and helping to create the new jobs that will be required for a green economy.

What lessons can be learnt from how the Welsh Government, UK Government, arms-length bodies and the sector dealt with Covid-19?

The current pandemic has shone a light on the precarious nature of much of the charity sector. Many organisations have been operating with little to no financial flexibility, and some of the hardest hit have been those that have put the most effort into developing income streams through visitor and trading income. Some that have worked to reduce their reliance on grant funding now find that they do not qualify for emergency support, despite having lost the vast majority of their income during this period. Yet these are organisations looking after some of our most precious and important historic and natural assets, which bring huge value to people and communities in direct and indirect ways. It is also these organisations that the Government looks to in terms of delivering on much of its ambition to drive the tourism sector which contributes nearly 10% of the UK's GDP. The public benefit generated by the charity sector is highly significant, but it can only be delivered if the charity sector has access to sufficient long-term funding that supports their organisational resilience as well as service delivery.

How might the sector evolve after Covid-19, and how can the Welsh Government support such innovation to deal with future challenges?

The degree of fragmentation in terms of how government and funders have approached support for different sectors during this period has been particularly noticeable. The heritage, tourism, environment, museums, and arts and cultural sectors have largely been engaged with and treated separately – despite often facing similar challenges, holding similar concerns and individual organisations often cutting across multiple sectors (we are a particularly broad example of that, having an interest in all of these sectors). Greater join up both within government and across funders could enable more comprehensive and innovative ways of identifying and addressing the challenges faced by these sectors and improving support and funding responses.

On a more positive note, this crisis has shown the real value to the public of access to green space and nature, and to culture and collections as people have sought to find ways to stay active, entertained and continue learning and exploring even while locked down in their homes. We and others in our sectors have been creating new, innovative digital offers for our members and the public during this period, and some existing content is reaching new audiences – for example we've seen a six-fold increase in downloads of our podcasts. We are therefore discovering new ways of interacting and engaging the public and providing new forms of access to our places and collections which may well support efforts to widen participation and access in the future, even after the current crisis ends.

In conclusion

The coronavirus pandemic has severely impacted the economy in Wales and plans for a recovery are at an early stage. However, the extent and persistence of the coronavirus emergency is still unknown, so inbuilt flexibility will be essential. The heritage and cultural sectors have been particularly affected and the long-term prospects are still uncertain in many areas.

The inconsistencies between the Welsh and English approaches have proved a challenge for the cultural sector and this has exacerbated the difficulties faced by many within this sector to secure support and funding. Resolving these differences will be even more pertinent in a post-coronavirus Wales. As we begin to emerge from the coronavirus pandemic, we have a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring communities together, take advantage of new networks and partnerships and reinforce the positive behaviours that the pandemic has inadvertently fostered. Some coordination at the national level is likely to support such positive outcomes.

Lastly, the importance of access to nature and quality outdoor environments within easy reach of the home has never been so profoundly understood. There is an unprecedented opportunity to explore how the heritage and cultural sectors can engage in new ways and creative spaces in the outdoors. We must ensure that plans for our economy make room for and value the essential assets and services that make this possible. From local community theatre, contemporary artists, to safe and welcoming museums and historic houses, investment in culture and heritage resources is vital.

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Inquiry into the Covid-19 outbreak in Wales and its impact on heritage sites, museums and archives

A response from the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales (RCAHMW)

The RCAHMW consists of a fieldwork section and an archival section, one creating new archaeological and architectural records and one making them available to the public as part of the publicly accessible National Monuments Record for Wales.

The impact of Covid-19 on our work has so far been minimal. The fieldwork team have not been able to undertake the work that they would normally expect to do at this time of year (especially aerial photographic work, recording buildings due for demolition (such as the Mold Civic Centre and Wrexham Police Station) and monitoring coastal erosion and recording newly exposed archaeology) but they have been busy writing up the results of past fieldwork (one result of which has been the extensive media coverage for our aerial photographic discoveries as a result of the 2018 drought, which have been featured in *The Times*, the Waitrose magazine, BBC Wales and Heno in the last two weeks).

Our archival section has if anything been busier than usual, partly because we have seen a large number of enquiries from academics using lockdown to write up their own research, from historians writing local and family histories and from planning consultants undertaking environmental impact surveys to support future development proposals. Because so much of the archive is now digitised or born-digital, we have been able to provide a 'business as usual' service with staff working from home. The only exception to this relates to archives that have yet to be digitised, such as a recently acquired aerial photographic collection.

Throughout the lockdown period, I have participated in fortnightly meetings in which the chief executives of arm's length bodies have reported on their response to the pandemic to the Welsh Government Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism and senior civil servants in the Culture, Sport and Tourism Division. They have sought to understand the problems we might be facing, have offered solutions and have provided the support for the difficult decisions that some bodies were facing, although fortunately not the Royal Commission.

Our major concern has been the continuity of funding for our work and especially for the salaries budget, and so far we have received the assurance that we needed in order to support and encourage our staff. Where cuts have been asked for, we have been consulted, and care has been taken to ensure that any in year budget cuts will not result in staff being made redundant. In the case of the Royal Commission, the 2 per cent cut we were asked to agree has been affordable through a combination of salary savings (a vacancy for a maritime heritage officer which we have yet to fill) and savings in travel and subsistence expenses.

On the question of when we will be able to open again to the public, we will be guided by the plans of the National Library, whose premises we share. The National Library is not planning to open to the public until January 2021, but staff will be permitted to return to work on a limited basis in September, and we will be giving priority to those staff who need access to the physical archives in order to answer public enquiries. Fieldwork is scheduled to begin again early in July, once the restrictions on travel and overnight stays are lifted.

The economic impact is very difficult to forecast at this stage. As far as the Royal Commission is concerned, we can foresee a busy period ahead if some of the predicted longer-term pandemic outcomes are confirmed. We anticipate an increased recording workload from the shrinking of the High Street as former retail premises are converted to residential accommodation. Equally, we expect to be kept busy recording historic places of worship that were struggling to stay open before the pandemic and that may now close for good and be converted to other uses.

Our major concern is that the cost of the pandemic to the economy and to Welsh Government could lead to cuts across the public sector. After seven years of cuts or budget freezes, the Royal Commission has managed to operate by freezing posts when staff move on or retire and by winning external funding in the form of research grants, especially from the European Union. Brexit will mean an end to the latter, and any further cuts to the Royal Commission budget would require us to consider which of our core activities we could no longer afford.

Lee Waters

Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport

Welsh Government

29 May 2020

Dear Lee,

Support for Local Media

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee recently received correspondence from Media Wales and the Wales Community Radio Network, regarding their concerns about the financial impact of the COVID 19 outbreak.

Paul Rowland, Editor of Wales Online, has described a situation where advertising revenues are down, readers have moved to online consumption and the resulting drop in income has meant furloughing staff. All of this is happening at a time when people are relying on trusted sources of verified news more than ever.

The Wales Community Radio Network wrote of their 'grave concerns over the state of and financial risk to our sector' which is largely staffed by volunteers. They warn against underestimating their role in assisting with the management of the COVID 19 outbreak, writing:

'Since the lock down has been in place, community radio stations have been preparing mission critical safety information in the form of radio bulletins and key messages to LOCAL populations across Wales. This has helped save lives, educate and inform people, and pass on essential information from Public Services and the Welsh Government.'

The severity of the situation has led to community radio stations and local news media calling on the Welsh Government to provide direct financial support to enable them to continue to operate.



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The Committee has previously looked into issues affecting local media. The relevant inquiries concluded more can be done to support the industry through public spending on statutory and information notices. For instance, the report on the inquiry into [Radio in Wales](#) recommended that:

‘the Welsh Government should place more government advertising, particularly public information campaigns, with Community Radio stations and provide guidance to other public sector bodies in Wales to draw their attention to the possibilities of using the sector more’

The Committee also recommended carrying out an audit of its spending on statutory notices in Wales and that of other public bodies in its [report into news journalism](#), both of these recommendations were agreed by the Welsh Government.

I am sure you will agree that local media plays a crucial role in keeping the public informed about issues which affect their lives. This is especially important at a time when the national media has often referred to UK Government policy instead of Welsh Government policy regarding lockdown protocols.

I would be grateful if you could respond to the issues raised by Media Wales and the Wales Community Radio Network, including providing the Committee with detailed responses to the following questions:

- What is being done to ensure the continued viability of the community radio stations operating at this time?
- Has the Welsh Government prioritised its placement of public safety notices on the COVID 19 outbreak with local media (i.e. community radio stations and local news media)?
- Has the Welsh Government issued any advice or guidance to the public sector to prioritise public information notices in local media?
- Will the Business Rates holiday be extended to local media?

I know the Welsh Government values local media as an independent and trusted source of information which is needed now more than ever. I am concerned that the short-term financial difficulties they face could well result in a sudden and



irreversible contraction in provision with long term implications for our civic society.

In order to inform the work of the Committee and respond to our stakeholders I would be grateful if you could provide this information by 15 June 2020.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Helen Mary Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dash at the end.

Helen Mary Jones

Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.



We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.





Ein cyf/Our ref MA/DET/1884/20

Helen Mary Jones MS
Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
Senedd Cymru
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
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24 June 2020

Dear Helen Mary Jones MS,

Thank you for your letter of 29 May to the Deputy Minister for Economy and Transport, Lee Waters MS in relation to Local Media. I am responding as broadcasting and publishing fall within my portfolio.

Local media is an important part of the broadcasting landscape and plays a crucial role in informing people across Wales. This role is of particular importance during the current COVID-19 crisis, when it is essential that people are able to access up to date information on what is going on in their local communities.

I am particularly grateful to the local, regional and national radio stations and media which are continuously keeping our country up to date on critical safety information during this concerning time.

The Welsh Government recognises the incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances being experienced by businesses and individuals across Wales. Much of our support in response to the COVID-19 pandemic has been non-sector specific and has been introduced to support businesses and organisations across the Welsh economy, including those in the media sector. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Welsh Government has announced almost £2bn of support for businesses in Wales. This includes the Welsh Government Economic Resilience Fund (ERF), which is now entering its second phase of delivery. The eligibility criteria for this phase has been revised to ensure we are able to support those businesses which we haven't yet reached. We have also introduced the Welsh Government's Third Sector COVID-19 Response Fund worth £24m, which is providing essential financial support for third sector organisations. These funding streams side alongside central UK Government schemes, including the Job Retention and Self-Employed Income Support

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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.

Schemes. We continue to call on the UK Government to provide further financial support for Welsh firms and employees to help steer them through this incredibly difficult period.

We have also provided support direct to the sector through the Independent Community Journalism Fund. In response to COVID-19 pandemic, funding through this scheme has been repurposed to provide emergency grant funding for day-to-day costs such as rental costs, wage costs and license / website fees, with the key aim of supporting publications through the next critical few months to maintain sustainability and continue to give communities vital news during the crisis. Further detail on this Fund has been shared with the Committee following my appearance before the Committee on 12 May.

We have also provided support to the publishing sector through the Books Council of Wales.

In addition to the measures detailed within this letter so far, I respond with further information in relation to your specific questions:

What is being done to ensure the continued viability of the community radio stations operating at this time?

The UK Government announced that the £400,000 Community Radio Fund administered by Ofcom would be used to provide a lifeline for radio stations hit hardest by the coronavirus. Eligible stations were invited to bid for emergency grants to help meet their core costs. On 4 June, Ofcom announced the results of that process, with two community radio stations in Wales successful in receiving emergency cash funding to help them during the current COVID-19 crisis. This figure is reflective of the small number of radio stations in Wales that bid for funding.

Ofcom will be inviting applications for a further emergency funding round, with a view to awarding the outstanding funds available. This will give stations another opportunity to apply for financial support, and additional time to assess their operations and financial positions. Further detail will be available on the Ofcom website in due course. In the meantime, my officials are working with Ofcom to ensure the opportunity to apply for this additional funding is communicated to all eligible applicants in Wales and to consider options for supporting applicants through the process.

The sector is in regular contact with Ofcom regarding the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on radio stations and to explore options to support those most affected, including the introduction of payment plans and deferred payments for transmission fees. The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport is also in discussion with Arqiva on this issue. The Welsh Government continue to engage with Ofcom in Wales to discuss how the sector is being supported during this difficult and challenging period.

Has the Welsh Government prioritised its placement of public safety notices on the COVID 19 outbreak with local media (i.e. community radio stations and local news media)?

The Welsh Government's contracts for marketing, advertising and media buying are managed by Communications Directorate. This involves regular contact and review of work, with agencies directed to include local platforms in their media buying plans as part of the Welsh Government's commitment to supporting Community Radio Stations and the Newspaper Industry across Wales. During COVID-19, communications officials continue to ensure that local media are included in the media plans for COVID-19 work as part of the effective delivery of key public safety information.

The Welsh Government, working closely with its specialist media buyers, has ensured that local and community radio stations and local news media outlets across Wales are included in media buying for all COVID-19 work, including campaigns under the 'Keep Wales Safe' umbrella.

Has the Welsh Government issued any advice or guidance to the public sector to prioritise public information notices in local media?

It is not normal practice for the Welsh Government to issue guidance on media buying to the public sector.

Will the Business Rates holiday be extended to local media?

The Welsh Government package of support in response to the COVID-19 outbreak includes more than £350m to help businesses with their non-domestic rates bills during this financial year. The Welsh Government recognises that not all businesses will benefit from the rates relief and grant support being provided. The package has been designed to be affordable within the available funding. To ensure clarity and consistency in administering the schemes, there are no plans to amend the eligibility criteria.

The Welsh Government will continue to work with the sector in Wales in response to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis and as we move towards recovery.

I thank the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee for raising these issues and for its commitment to advocating the issues facing local media in Wales.

Yours sincerely,



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Agenda Item 6

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

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