

Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Ymchwiliad i'r achosion o COVID-19 ac effaith y feirws ar ddiwylliant, y diwydiannau creadigol, treftadaeth, cyfathrebu a chwaraeon / Inquiry into the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on culture, creative industries, heritage, communications and sport

CWLC COV08

Ymateb gan The Congress Theatre Cwmbran/ Response from The Congress Theatre Cwmbran

With the publication of your consultation document, please find below our view from The Congress Theatre, Cwmbran

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

So far we believe the support has been good, with the Rate relief grant and furlough schemes and have been dealt with efficiently. However like most of us, it was only looked and addressed the short term impact of the closures.

· **What will the likely long-term impacts of Covid-19 be on the sector, and what support is needed to deal with those?**

As a community venue, that relies on local dance schools and amateur performances to help sustain the theatre, it is going to be awhile until these groups can meet, let alone look at putting on performances. We don't expect the level of activity to increase until social distancing is over and then that societies can start to produce work, probably 18months – 2years time.

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

I think so far that they have done good job, however they have only addressed the short term implications and not the long term for our industry

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

We need to be looking at supporting the freelance workers of the industry as well as the physical buildings. More grants available to help see us through, until we can at least start to earn some sort of income. This could be on a reducing nature but would be for at least 12 months

thanks

Martyn

Manager

Congress Theatre