Annwyl / Dear Chairs,

This letter is on behalf of the Cardiff Music Board of which I Chair, in response to the Turn Up the Volume - an Inquiry to Live Music Industry report that was published by the Senedd Culture, Welsh Language and Communications committee in December 2020.

I would like to thank you and the committee for undertaking this important inquiry and inviting me to present to the committee and to take part in the wider consultation.

We very much welcome the findings in the report, especially given the challenges that the music sector faces. The Music Board have discussed the report and its recommendations, and there are a number of issues they would like to raise.

In particular, the report does suffer from a lack of consultation with our diverse populations, in particular women, BAME and disabled groups, and it is disappointing that the views these populations are not adequately reflected in the report. The report shows little engagement with musicians, as it primarily focuses on infrastructure, and there is insufficient engagement with professionals and creatives in the sector. The consideration of the impact of Brexit on performers and venues is also noticeable omission given the substantial impact on the sector in Wales.

On the whole we welcome the recommendations in the report, although the large number of recommendations means that some critical issues could be overlooked. The report would therefore benefit from a more focussed and deliverable set of recommendations that recognise the resources partners can leverage. Officers in Cardiff are happy to work with their colleagues in Creative Wales as they consider the recommendations.
We look forward to working with Creative Wales colleagues to support the ambitions for the live music industry in Wales, particularly given Cardiff’s role as the Capital and delivering our aspirations as a music city and supporting a thriving Industry and live events sector.

Yn gywir,
Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

CYNGHORYDD / COUNCILLOR HUW THOMAS
ARWEINYDD / LEADER
CYNGOR CAERDYDD / CARDIFF COUNCIL