



3 December 2021

The Clerk
Finance Committee
Senedd Cymru

Dear Clerk

RE: A CALL FOR INFORMATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Thank you for the invitation to present views on Welsh Government Draft Budget proposals for 2022-23.

TAC has already responded to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee's consultation on the priorities for the Sixth Senedd. TAC has also contributed to two evidence sessions from the CCWSI Committee:

- Session to discuss the future of public service media on 13 October 2021
- One day inquiry into the arts and creative industries on 24 November 2021

This has been a valuable opportunity for TAC to discuss and present views on a number of issues including aspects relevant to the budget.

The financial support through the 2021-22 budget and Covid-19 related funding undoubtedly helped to save and stabilise independent production companies. A range of TAC members used UK and Welsh Government support for businesses including the Business Disruption Loan Scheme (CBILS), Job Retention Scheme (furlough), Bounce Back loans, VAT Deferral Scheme, Business Rate Relief, Emergency Digital Development Funds and Creative Wales Emergency Television Funds, Economic Resilience Fund and Small Business Grant.

In prioritising for 2022-23 and responding to Covid-19, the focus must be on ensuring that the creative sector can return to work safely and is able to employ new talent. Direct funding towards multi-media projects (live events, stage, television and film) and grant support towards productions in various locations would be of great benefit to the local economy.

In preparing and planning financially for 2022-23, it must be remembered that some newer independent production companies in the creative sector don't have long-running series and are generally dependent on winning work through tender. This can often (including pre-Covid) cause instability. While that is to some extent the nature of the industry, practical support in training and

mentoring in tendering for work would be beneficial and further collaboration across the sector needs to be promoted.

It is vital to ensure transparency and a fair system of scrutiny throughout the budget-making process. Detailed risk management systems need to be ensured, any opportunities for tender for public agency projects should be clear and practical with a fair and achievable timetable.

The creative industries are central to the recovery period ahead, both economically and socially. The broadcasting industry needs assurance that financial support and resources will be properly targeted towards the needs of the sector with sufficient flexibility within the process.

Environmental issues are increasingly important to TAC members as production increases to pre-Covid-19 levels again. Mitigating climate change must be central in supporting economic recovery, and S4C is working with the production sector to introduce the 'albert' sustainable production scheme into its commissioning regime.

All sectors – including the creative sector – have a prominent role to play in developing policy to reduce poverty and gender inequality. Being inclusive and appealing to a new workforce from different backgrounds is extremely important – our training programme with S4C is helping to do this in our sector.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require any further information or comments.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dyfrig Davies". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Dyfrig Davies
TAC Chair