

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

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

17 December 2021

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 6 December about the recruitment to the post of Chief Executive of the Arts Council of Wales.

The Arts Council of Wales (ACW) fully recognises that the retirement of its new Chief Executive Sian Tomos on grounds of ill health has left the organisation in a difficult situation. This is compounded by the fact that her previous post as Director Arts Development is still vacant.

In terms of commercial recruitment advice, ACW was supported in the original recruitment process last spring by AEM International, whose contract with ACW also commits the company to supporting them in the next recruitment round for a permanent CEO. Following lengthy discussions about the timescales to recruit a new CEO and any subsequent notice periods, the ACW Council has decided to recruit an Interim Chief Executive in the meantime. ACW has approached several qualified individuals and discussions are ongoing. The Welsh Government have not set a deadline on this recruitment but continue to monitor the situation closely, meeting regularly with the Chair and Acting Accounting Officer.

Your letter mentions the importance of developing international work, especially in the context of Brexit and its aftermath. The highly-experienced team at Wales Arts International, has providing leadership on the development of European relationships and protocols across the four Arts Councils in the UK. They continue building excellent relationships, enabling artists to work with partners in Ireland and Canada, and are doing important work on responding to the carbon challenge and on bringing the benefits of international collaborations back to diverse communities across Wales. In all of its activities, ACW aims to align with the Welsh Government's International Strategy and Future Generations objectives.

ACW has provided substantial support to the arts sector in relation to urgent need caused by the ongoing pandemic. It's Funding and Finance teams have offered timely support

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

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1SN

Gohebiaeth.Dawn.Bowden@llyw.cymru
Correspondence.Dawn.Bowden@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.

throughout the pandemic, which has been widely praised and appreciated across the sector. ACW and the Welsh Government continue to work closely to consider whether any additional funding support may be required, and to ensure that capacity is available to support the sector as needed.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'B'.

Dawn Bowden AS/MS

Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip