

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

Ein cyf/Our ref DB/647/22

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

18 January 2022

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letters dated 6 and 21 December 2021 regarding the 'Cultural Recovery Fund'.

Cultural Recovery Fund

I announced on 12 January additional support for the cultural sector in Wales which continues to be impacted by the pandemic and the recent restrictions the Welsh Government has needed to put in place to keep Wales safe.

The Welsh Government is allocating an additional £15.438m to run a third round of the Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF).

The Arts Council of Wales (ACW) launched the application process on the 12 January to support organisations within the arts sector. The previously announced Winter Stability Fund budget now been merged into the third round of CRF to ensure alignment with the wider funding support on offer.

The remaining impacted sectors including music venues, heritage sites, event venues and organisers, independent local museums, community and independent libraries, galleries and independent cinemas who were previously supported via the Welsh Government's CRF will be contacted by letter during the week commencing 17 January which will set out how they can access funding support. There will also be support for eligible business and organisations that have not received support via CRF to date, who can meet the criteria.

To be eligible, businesses will have to self-declare that they have experienced a material impact through a reduced turnover between December 2021 and February 2022.

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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.

We are also clear on the impact the current restrictions are having on our creative freelance community and are looking to increase our level of support to them. Details on this will follow in due course.

Following discussions with partners, industry and trade unions, we have doubled (to £1,000) the Emergency Business Fund grant award available for qualifying sole traders, freelancers and taxi drivers who do not pay rates.

The discretionary fund offers a one-off payment to those freelancers who are most impacted by the cancellation or postponement of activity because of the Alert level 2 restrictions in Wales. The fund is to focus on those freelancers who have lost income in performing arts and wider community engagement roles that would have experienced cancellation or deferral of performances, exhibitions and shows. We do not expect freelancers who work in sectors not impacted by the Alert level 2 restrictions to apply to this fund.

This third round builds on the previous support, where across both phases of the CRF we have provided £93m of funding which has supported business, organisations and individuals in the key cultural sectors.

Covid Pass

This decision to implement a Covid pass in Wales was not taken lightly and cultural venues were included because they are indoors and they see large numbers of people congregating closely together for prolonged periods of time. As we know the longer large numbers of people are close together, especially indoors, the greater the risk of transmission.

The use of the [NHS Covid Pass or a negative lateral flow test](#) for cinemas, theatres and concert halls is required by law in Wales. Ministers have made their expectations to venues and events in Wales clear within the published [guidance](#). We have received positive feedback on the implementation of the Covid pass, however, we will continue to monitor implementation and will make changes to the guidance, if necessary.

The Welsh Government will continue to support businesses operating the Covid pass, as we supported their initial implementation. This will include stakeholder meetings, guidance, FAQs and the provision of communications materials.

We undertook extensive communications to announce and promote the extension of Covid passes to cinemas, theatres and concert halls. There was wide media coverage and social media activity to promote the policy before it was implemented and we have continued to promote awareness through all our communications channels.

Alongside this activity, updated assets such as posters for stakeholders to download and use were created, guidance was revised and a promotional pack was published on gov.wales. Please see links below:

- NHS Covid Pass communication assets here: [Published Assets \(assetbank-server.com\)](#)
- Updated 'How to get your NHS Covid Pass' web page: www.gov.wales/nhsCovidpass
- Updated guidance for businesses and events: <https://gov.wales/Covid-pass-guidance-businesses-and-events>

- NHS Covid pass promotional pack - [NHS Covid Pass: promotional pack | GOV.WALES](#)

The recent [Welsh Government Technical Advisory Cell evidence paper on the impact of Covid Passes](#) reports that when asked about attending an event where a Covid Pass is required, fewer than one in five (19%) report that it would make them less likely to attend.

Cases of coronavirus in Wales remain very high. The NHS Covid Pass is another way the Welsh Government is strengthening the measures we have in place to keep us all safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden', written in a cursive style.

Dawn Bowden AS/MS

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