

Dear Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee,

I am writing as the publisher of The National and Corgi Cymru.

The news industry in Wales is facing a crisis. Printing costs have increased 100% since the start of the year, add to this the increase in the cost of fuel has added significantly to distribution costs.

There has also been a fall in revenues from advertising due the economic downturn and newspaper sales and subscriptions are down due to the cost of living crisis.

The situation is far worse in Wales than it is in England and Scotland.

Without short term financial support there is a risk that titles in Wales will vanish. The National Wales will come to an end in the next couple of months.

hope you'll agree that this will have a detrimental effect on democracy in Wales, and this at a time where there is a greater need for independent news in Wales than at anytime before.

Can we please request the committee discuss this issue as a matter of urgency?

Yours sincerely

Huw Marshall

Publisher