

Helgard Krause
Chief Executive
Welsh Books Council

13 December 2023

Magazine funding model

Dear Helgard,

At our Committee meeting on 16 November 2023, we considered a letter from Wales Arts Review about the Books Council of Wales's magazine funding model. This followed another letter which we received over the summer from the Save Welsh Magazines campaign team about chronic underfunding in the sector.

The gravity of the situation has, however deepened yet still since the publication of grant recipients for English language cultural periodicals for 2024-28 on 7 December 2023. We note already that the Board of Planet Magazine is currently considering its options following the decision not to continue providing grant support to it.

Following our consideration of these matters, we would like to ask the following questions:

- Can you explain why Welsh language magazines receive a significantly higher proportion of funding compared with English language magazines? The Welsh language grant was £388,875 in 2023, compared with £147,900 for English language magazines. Both figures are reduced from 2022.
- What discussions has the Books Council of Wales had about changes to the magazine sector in Wales? Given that there have been static levels of funding for the past few years, what changes have you considered introducing?

- What review of the funding model, guidelines or application remit has the Books Council made in the previous five years? Are there any plans to review these in the near future?
- We would also be grateful if you could provide us with an explanation of what underpinned the decisions you've made about the funding available to English language cultural periodicals. By this we mean, for example, the process you undertook, the criteria set out for grant applicants, how you benchmarked all the applications received against such criteria, and the full decisions you have made in this regard.

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.