

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

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

Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN

SeneddDiwylliant@senedd.cymru

senedd.cymru/SeneddDiwylliant

0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN

SeneddCulture@senedd.wales

senedd.wales/SeneddCulture

0300 200 6565

Lesley Griffiths MS

Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice

Welsh Government

21 May 2024

Books Council of Wales

Dear Lesley

In recent weeks, we have received a **number of items correspondence** relating to the distribution of funding for magazines by the Books Council of Wales.

We have already **written** to the Books Council to ask questions about the decision-making processes which have been followed when it comes to awarding tenders for English-language magazines. We are concerned that the issues which have been raised with us stem from a lack of sufficient funding given to the Books Council.

As has been noted in the most recent (and, for now, final) **editorial of Planet magazine**, there have been successive reductions in the core grant given to their magazine, and others, from the Books Council, going back over a number of years. The editorial lays down a challenge to both the Senedd and the Welsh Government to ensure that there is sufficient funding to allow for a healthy Welsh media to hold those in power to account.

As you will know, declining budgets have had a devastating effect on the arts and culture sector. In light of these budget reductions, we would like to know:

- What discussions the Welsh Government has had with the Books Council of Wales about its ongoing budget needs.

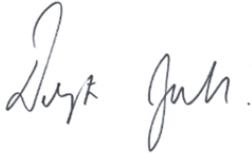


**Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament**

- What considerations the Welsh Government has given to providing additional support to the Books Council of Wales, beyond what has been provided by the Creative Wales in 2024-25.
- What considerations the Welsh Government has given to ensuring there is sufficient financial support available to support magazine journalism in Wales.

I would welcome a response by no later than 19 June 2024.

Yours sincerely



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

