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Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
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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.



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- 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.