

Lesley Griffiths MS
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice
Welsh Government

21 May 2024

Welsh National Opera

Dear Lesley

We have recently received a **letter** from Elizabeth Atherton about Welsh National Opera, which has caused our Members a great deal of concern. The letter relates to the drastic changes which WNO is considering putting into effect as a result of funding cuts.

Ms. Atherton has organised a letter calling for more funding for the WNO, which states that:

"Without an urgent, emergency, bi-national funding package being secured, WNO will be forced to become part-time, which would obviously be devastating, both for those who work for the largest arts organisation that our nation has, and for Wales itself."

As you will be aware, budget reductions across the culture sector have had a significantly detrimental effect on many organisations. We are very concerned about what is being proposed by WNO. We would wish to know:

- What discussions the Welsh Government has undertaken with Welsh National Opera to secure the future of the company.
- What discussions the Welsh Government has had with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, or Arts Council Wales and Arts Council England, about any a cross-border funding agreement for Wales National Opera.

- What considerations the Welsh Government has given to providing additional support to Wales National Opera, beyond what's been provided by the Arts Council of Wales in 2024-25.

We are deeply concerned that the cuts being proposed across the arts and culture sectors could have a devastating effect on our national life, as well as our standing in the world. Owing to the significant level of interest from the public in this matter, we would be grateful to receive a prompt response to our queries.

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.