



Foreign, Commonwealth
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Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your correspondence of 5 November, addressed to the Foreign Secretary regarding the British Council. I am replying as the Minister responsible for the British Council.

The Government highly values the British Council as a UK soft power asset through its important work in promoting the English language, UK arts and culture and education.

I recognise the important work the British Council does in Wales, and I was encouraged to hear of the recent launch of a new residency programme in partnership with Arts Council England, Creative Scotland and Arts Council of Wales/Wales Arts International, which supports artists and cultural professionals whose work has been impacted by war and conflict. I look forward to hearing about the results of the programme in due course.

I want to assure you that this Government is committed to a successful British Council that is financially sustainable for the long term. Whilst FCDO funding represents a minority of the Council's income and the British Council's Board of Trustees is ultimately responsible for its financial sustainability, we continue to work closely with the British Council on the issues you raise in your letter.

Yours ever,

CHRIS ELMORE MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State