

Huw Lewis AC / AM
Y Gweinidog Tai, Adfywio a Threftadaeth
Minister for Housing, Regeneration and Heritage



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-03-308/P-03-311/P-03-314
Ein cyf/Our ref HL/05330/11

William Powell AM
Chair Petitions committee

committeebusiness@Wales.gsi.gov.uk

19 July 2011

Dear William

Thank you for your letter of 29 June about the petitions in respect of Gwent Theatre, Spectacle Theatre and Theatr Powys/Mid Powys Youth Theatre, arising from loss of revenue funded status following the Arts Council of Wales Investment Review.

I have read with interest the content of your letter and the accompanying enclosures and I am, of course, familiar with the Investment Review.

As you are aware, the strategic agenda for the arts in Wales is determined by the Welsh Government in consultation with the Arts Council of Wales (ACW), while individual funding decisions are solely the responsibility of ACW, who operate at arms-length from Government.

I am a firm believer in the established principle of arms-length funding of the arts in Wales, a principle that enjoys cross-party support within the National Assembly for Wales. Therefore, while I am sorry that some arts organisations were unhappy with the Investment Review outcomes, as I noted in the Chamber recently, it was inevitable that not all organisations would be happy with the outcomes of the review. I am satisfied as to the robustness of the Investment Review process.

As regards the manifesto commitment to review the approach to theatre-in-education, I have already met with the Minister for Education and Skills. We have agreed that there will be a review of the support for arts in schools. This will be a broad based exercise looking at the programmes provided by the Welsh Government with partners including ACW and will include theatre experiences for young people.

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd • Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Wedi'i argraffu ar bapur wedi'i ailgylchu (100%)

English Enquiry Line 0845 010 3300
Llinell Ymholiadau Cymraeg 0845 010 4400
Correspondence.huw.lewis@wales.gsi.gov.uk
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Our officials together with ACW will develop and bring forward proposals for the review including a remit, proposed membership and schedule of work. I hope you will agree that this will help us to examine in close detail how best to ensure the widest possible access to high quality arts experiences.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Huw', with a stylized, cursive script.

Huw Lewis AC / AM

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