



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1013
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02747/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair
Petitions Committee

Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

28 October 2020

Dear Janet

Thank you for your letter of 13 October seeking further information on the eligibility criteria for the Freelancer Fund.

My officials worked closely with stakeholders in the design of the Freelancer Fund, including with local authorities, who are delivering the fund on our behalf. We engaged extensively with cultural and creative unions, including the Musicians' Union and with freelancers through the Wales Freelance Taskforce.

The eligibility criteria was agreed in line with those conversations, as follows:

- To be eligible, freelancers must work in the four key sub sectors of the arts, creative industries, arts and heritage events and culture and heritage, and their work must have direct creative/cultural outcomes;
- They must provide proof of some work as a freelancer in those sectors between April 2019 – July 2020 and/or proof of work cancelled between April 2020 – March 2021.
- They must not have received funding from the Start Up Grant launched in June 2020 to help new businesses survive the economic consequences of Covid-19;
- They must live in the local authority to which they are applying for funds;
- Individuals in freelance roles that have been able to continue at previous or near previous levels of activity (e.g. architects, graphic designers, games designers etc.) with or without support were advised not to apply.

Following advice from stakeholders we have not asked applicants to provide detailed evidence and proof of loss of work to a particular level.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

My officials continue to engage with stakeholders during the delivery of the fund to review arrangements on an ongoing basis. The speed in which the Freelancer Fund was oversubscribed in some local authority areas in both phases of delivery has highlighted the huge levels of demand for this support. In this period of unprecedented challenges, with significant demand on Welsh Government budgets, we were always aware that demand was likely to exceed availability of funding. The volume of applications is clear evidence of the need for support for this group of workers and we are currently exploring options to providing further support in the context of competing demands on finance.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism