

Vaughan Gething MS  
Minister for Economy  
Dawn Bowden MS  
Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism  
Welsh Government

13 March 2024

## **Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024-25**

Dear Vaughan and Dawn

Thank you for your [letter](#) dated 1 March 2024, responding to the Committee's report, '[Scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2024-25](#)'.

1. It has been two and a half years since the Welsh Government committed to a new Culture Strategy to engage with the arts, culture, and heritage sectors as part of its Programme for Government, and subsequently the Co-operation Agreement. We note in your response that the revenue allocated to delivering the Culture Strategy in 2024-2025 is being repurposed to mitigate against the impact of job losses in the culture and heritage sectors. Whilst we welcome the action that has been taken to secure as many jobs as possible, we would welcome an outline of the effect that this will have on timescales for the delivery and implementation of the long-awaited Culture Strategy.
2. In the Committee's report, and other [correspondence in January and February 2024](#), we have raised concerns about the backlog of maintenance and upgrade works required around the estates of Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library of Wales. We heard in evidence from Amgueddfa Cymru in [December 2023](#) that the present condition of the National Museum building in Cardiff presents a real risk to our national treasures and that staff are even on standby in heavy rain to take paintings off walls to protect them from water ingress. We have urged you to make protecting the national collections a cross government mission and to find additional funding to ensure that the national collections are properly safeguarded.

- 3.** Following publication of the Committee's report, we continue to receive representations expressing concern about the catastrophic impact of the budget cuts on the heritage and culture sector in Wales, and for the Books Council Wales. This will inevitably result in a reduced workforce and permanent loss of specialist knowledge and expertise, in addition to significantly reduced programmes of work that contribute to achieving the Welsh Government's aims and objectives.
- 4.** As a Committee, we acknowledge the exceptionally difficult decisions you have had to make when it comes to next year's budget, and the need to protect core public services. Should there be any further consequential funding allocation from the UK Government during the next financial year, we would strongly advocate that priority consideration be given to those organisations and arms-length bodies in the culture and heritage sectors, and to addressing the ongoing risks to the national collections.

Yours sincerely



**Delyth Jewell MS**  
**Committee Chair**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.