

Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru / National Assembly for Wales  
Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
Ymchwiliad byr i oblygiadau ymadael â'r Undeb Ewropeaidd / Short inquiry into the implications of Brexit  
CWLC(5) BREXIT04  
Ymateb gan Cenedlaethol Cwmni Dawns Cymru / Evidence from National Dance Company Wales

## 1. Introduction

National Dance Company Wales (NDCWales) is grateful for the opportunity to provide a written submission to the Committee for its short inquiry into the implications of Brexit.

This is especially relevant to NDCWales given the growth in our European touring over the past two years, the number of EU nationals who are part our performing group, and the Company's ambitions to create work in collaboration with European partners.

NDCWales is a member of One Dance UK, the industry body for dance, whose report into the impact of Brexit on the dance sector, 'Movement Beyond Borders – The UK Dance Sector Outlook on Brexit', is an excellent summary of the key issues. It can be accessed here: <https://www.onedanceuk.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/Movement-Beyond-Borders-Brexit-report-Aug18-180820.pdf>

## 2. NDCWales – our aims

NDCWales is an internationally renowned contemporary dance company based in Cardiff, creating and touring dance works across Wales, the wider UK, and overseas. It commissions choreographers from around the world to create work in Wales. Around two-thirds of its touring is in Wales, across small and middle scale venues, enabling audiences to access high quality dance. The remainder takes place in the rest of the UK and internationally, with around 15–20% of all touring dates taking place in the EU.

Our current focus is on developing new audiences and expanding the range of audiences that experience and enjoy dance in Wales, and beyond. To achieve this, we are diversifying the creation and touring model to reach a wider range of venues and audiences with different types of dance.

However, performing dance is only a part of our offer. We also deliver a range of participation opportunities in dance, to increase people's well-being, learning ability, self-confidence and means of expression.

### **3. NDCWales – Workforce**

Currently 50% of the dancers in the Company of NDCWales are EU nationals (from outside the UK). The mix of British and European dancers is critical to maintaining the range of skills required by the Company to deliver our work. There is a paucity of dance training in Wales of the kind required to develop dancers for companies like NDCWales, and there are limited British schools offering training of the standard required. Traditionally the best Welsh and British dancers have trained overseas.

Restriction of movement of people and goods would limit the ability for dance companies to tour, generate revenue and attract talent. Smaller companies, artists and individuals who frequently engage with European partners would also suffer.

The Company would advocate for Welsh Government (WG) to collect data on labour movement in the arts sector from the EU in Wales. A quick and easy no-cost or low-cost, long duration, multiple-entry visa or work permit arrangement for creative and cultural workers would ensure continued free movement of creative workers. This could be based on the permit-free festivals model.

We would also advocate for investment in dance education now to foster future generations of Welsh dancers to be able to perform at the highest levels. This includes not only vocational training and further/higher education but also embedding and recognising the value of creative and artistic subjects in Welsh schools.

### **4. Touring**

Touring income is vitally important to NDCWales, and to many dance and arts companies in Wales. The nation has an international profile which has significantly benefited the brand and reputation of Wales, as well as helping to diversify income.

NDCWales earns between £60,000 and £100,000 per year in touring fees within the EU. This income and the brand benefits are in jeopardy if the ability to tour without restriction is removed. Companies are currently able to provide Certificates of Fiscal Residence to EU hosts, avoiding any double-taxation or withholding tax.

European touring is more attractive and lucrative for Welsh companies because sets and costumes can travel by road, keeping shipping costs low, and no further customs documentation or levy is required. The necessity for customs clearance procedures would slow the process and increase costs of touring in the EU which would be likely to reduce the amount of touring, its financial viability and the amount earned.

## **5. Collaborations and access to EU funding**

NDCWales is establishing connections with a range of EU-based agencies, venues and artists, with whom it collaborates. One of the key ways in which companies like NDCWales have enabled and developed links is via European funding schemes, such as Creative Europe, Horizons 2020, Erasmus+, Tandem and many others. These schemes have enabled Wales' arts and cultural sector to create distinctive and ambitious artistic projects, engage with the wider world, export and generate income.

WG could ensure continued participation for Wales in all major EU funding schemes, including influencing the future development and evolution of these programmes itself. Given the devolved nature of culture and education matters, WG could do this even if the UK government does not wish to continue full participation in these programmes.