

The Rt Hon Jeremy Wright MP  
Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport

14 January 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

### **National Broadcast Archive for Wales**

The National Assembly's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee has been discussing the National Library of Wales' bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a National Broadcast Archive for Wales.

At our meeting on 10 January we discussed the proposal with the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM. He confirmed that the BBC has committed funding to this project, which would see the BBC archives available to the people of Wales. He also said that he would be meeting the BBC within the next two weeks to discuss the level of support.

We understand that the BBC has committed £20,000 from 2024, plus approximately £40,000 of in-kind support.

During our discussions, the Deputy Minister told the Committee he felt that the support from the BBC to establish the Archive in Wales should be proportionate to the funding for the BBC Archive Centre in Perivale, which received £9 million. The Deputy Minister stressed the importance of the size of the BBC's contribution to the Welsh Government's support for the bid.

Given the critical role this issue now plays in the delivery of this bid, I would be grateful if you could confirm whether the Welsh Government has made any representations to you, at official or Ministerial level, on this.

The bid will be signed off by the National Library at their Board meeting in February in order to meet the HLF deadline for this financial year.

---

**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

---

Given the timing of these meetings and the imminent deadline for the bid, please can you respond by 25 January 2019? With apologies for the short deadline,

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bethan Sayed." The signature is written in a dark ink and is positioned centrally below the text "Yours sincerely,".

Bethan Sayed

**Chair of the Committee**



Department for  
Digital, Culture,  
Media & Sport

Margot James MP  
Minister for Digital and the Creative  
Industries  
4th Floor  
100 Parliament Street  
London SW1A 2BQ

E: [enquiries@culture.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries@culture.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/dcms](http://www.gov.uk/dcms)

29<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Bethan Sayed  
Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and  
Communications Committee  
[SeneddCWLC@assembly.wales](mailto:SeneddCWLC@assembly.wales)

Our Ref:  
MC2019/00560/SD

Dear Bethan,

Thank you for your correspondence of 14 January to the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, the Rt Hon Jeremy Wright QC MP, regarding the work to establish a National Broadcast Archive for Wales. I am responding as the minister responsible for this policy area.

The government recognises the cultural significance and value of archiving high quality content from our national broadcasters. That is why we have required the BBC in its Charter to make arrangements for the maintenance of BBC archives. It is the BBC's responsibility to deliver this obligation and ensure archive arrangements are kept safely and to commonly accepted standards, with reasonable opportunities for public access.

I can confirm that neither the Secretary of State nor I have received any representations from the Welsh government on this issue, either at ministerial or official level. I should note that given the BBC's independence, the level of BBC funding to support the National Broadcast Archive for Wales is a matter for the BBC, not the UK government.

I hope this information is helpful.

Best wishes  
Margot

Margot James MP  
Minister for Digital and the Creative Industries

PS I am sorry that I was not  
able to respond in time for  
your deadline

