

# Agenda – Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee

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Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date: 10 July 2024

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Lleu Williams

Committee Clerk

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[SeneddCulture@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCulture@senedd.wales)

## Hybrid

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### Pre-meeting registration

(09.15 – 09.30)

### Public

#### 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

(09.30)

#### 2 Ministerial scrutiny: Evidence session with the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice

(09.30 – 10.30)

(Pages 1 – 24)

Lesley Griffiths MS, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice

Paul Kindred, Divisional Deputy, Culture Division, Welsh Government

Attached Documents:

Research brief

Welsh Government written evidence

#### 3 Paper(s) to note

(10.30)



### **3.1 Legislative Consent: Data Protection and Digital Information Bill**

(Pages 25 – 29)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language: Welsh Government's response to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee's report on the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No.4) in respect of the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill – 17 June 2024

Copy letter from the Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee to the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language: Correcting a misunderstanding in the Welsh Government's letter responding to its report on the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No.4) in respect of the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill – 2 July 2024

### **3.2 Books Council of Wales magazine funding model**

(Pages 30 – 48)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Minister for Social Partnership: Providing information requested by the Committee in relation to the distribution of funding for magazines by the Books Council of Wales – 17 June 2024

Letter from Emily Trahair: Clarification around a number of points raised in correspondence to the Committee from Books Council of Wales in its letter dated 4 June 2024 – 2 July 2024

Annex 1

Annex 2

Letter to the Minister for Social Partnership: Expressing the Committee's continued concern regarding the cuts to Books Council of Wales's funding and to request further information about the Minister's recent visit to the Books Council – 27 June 2024

### **3.3 Wales–Ireland relations**

(Pages 49 – 50)

Attached Documents:

Response from the First Minister: Update on the Ireland Wales Ministerial Forum – 17 June 2024

### **3.4 Culture and the new relationship with the EU**

(Pages 51 – 56)

Attached Documents:

Response from the Minister for Social Partnership: Providing an update on the steps the Welsh Government is taking to explore opportunities for re-joining Creative Europe – 18 June 2024

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice: Providing information requested by the Committee relating to its inquiry on culture and the new relationship with the European Union following the evidence session on 15 May 2024 – 20 June 2024

Response from the Cathaoirleach of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media, Houses of the Oireachtas: Suggested organisations to contact for information in relation to the Committee's inquiry on culture and the new relationship with the European Union – 20 June 2024

### **3.5 Welsh Government Draft Budget 2024–25**

(Pages 57 – 82)

Attached Documents:

Letter from Jane Lancaster, Assistant Secretary, Prospect Wales: Regarding cuts to heritage and culture in Wales – 24 June 2024

Letter from the Chair of the Petitions Committee: Drawing the Committee's attention to Petition P-06-1437 Increase, don't cut, funding for the National Library, Amgueddfa Cymru and the Royal Commission – 26 June 2024

Correspondence from John Harrington: Concerns with the proposal by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to close its youth programme – 18

June 2024

Statement

Annex

Correspondence from Rebecca Totterdell: Regarding the proposed closure of the junior department of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama – 27 June 2024

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice: Regarding the closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama – 28 June 2024

Copy letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education: Regarding the closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama – 28 June 2024

Copy letter to the Chair of the Children, Young People and Education Committee: Regarding the closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama – 28 June 2024

Copy letter to the Chair of the Finance Committee from the Chair of the Petitions Committee: Drawing the Finance Committee's attention to Petition P-06-1455 Protect the junior departments of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama from closure – 26 June 2024

Response from the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice: Regarding funding for the Welsh National Opera – 25 June 2024

### **3.6 Scrutiny of the Arts Council of Wales**

(Pages 83 – 85)

Attached Documents:

Letter to Arts Council of Wales: Requesting an update following the general scrutiny session on 6 December 2023 – 24 June 2024

### **3.7 National contemporary art gallery**

(Pages 86 – 87)

Attached Documents:

Letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice: Requesting an update on progress since the Welsh Government's initial response to the

Committee's report on its inquiry into a National contemporary art gallery –  
24 June 2024

### **3.8 Scrutiny of Accounts: Amgueddfa Cymru 2021–22**

(Page 88)

Attached Documents:

Letter from the Chair of the Public Accounts and Public Administration  
Committee: Providing the Public Accounts and Public Administration  
Committee's report 'Scrutiny of Accounts: Amgueddfa Cymru 2021–22' – 26  
June 2024

### **3.9 Welsh Government international relations**

(Pages 89 – 90)

Attached Documents:

Response from the First Minister: Providing information on the Rennes  
Declaration as requested by the Committee – 2 July 2024

## **4 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the remainder of this meeting**

(10.30)

## **Private**

## **5 Ministerial scrutiny: Consideration of evidence**

(10.30 – 10.40)

## **6 Welsh Government's Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024– 2030: Consideration of consultation (2)**

(10.40 – 11.00)

(Pages 91 – 95)

[Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024 to 2030](#)

Attached Documents:

Overview of consultation

**7 Welsh Government international relations: Consideration of draft consultation on the implementation review of Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA)**

(11.00 – 11.10)

(Pages 96 – 99)

Attached Documents:

Draft consultation

**8 Consideration of the forward work programme for the remainder of the Sixth Senedd**

(11.10 – 12.30)

(Pages 100 – 114)

Attached Documents:

Priorities for the remainder of the Sixth Senedd

Document is Restricted

## **CCWLSIR Committee general scrutiny session, 10 July 2024:**

### **Welsh Government's evidence paper**

#### **Background**

1. As outlined in my Oral Statement last month, the policy areas within my portfolio reach across many aspects of Government and have the potential to make profound and lasting change to the lives of people and communities across Wales. Culture, heritage, sport and social justice are interconnected pillars, and when leveraged effectively can help build a more inclusive, equitable and vibrant society.
2. I am focused on delivering a strong cultural, heritage and sports offer. The cultural well-being of Wales is indivisible from our society, environment and economy. I recognise the intrinsic value of culture, sport and heritage and commit to the principle that every person in Wales has the right to access, create, participate in and to see themselves reflected in the cultural, sporting and heritage activity of our nation. Our ambition is for these sectors in Wales to be thriving, with a long-term strategic plan for investment.
3. I remain committed to developing policies through a poverty and equality lens and identifying opportunities to re-prioritise budgets to deliver better shared outcomes on reducing poverty and inequality in the longer term. For example, we are also working towards making a measurable difference to the lives of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic people through my portfolio. We have committed capital and revenue funding of just over £5m across three financial years (2022-25) for projects and programmes which support the aims and objectives of the Anti-Racist Wales Action Plan.
4. This financial year, 2024-25, is the final year for which the Welsh Government has been allocated funding from the UK Government. Details of funding for sport, heritage and culture are set out in the Final Budget passed by the Senedd in March.
5. We have no certainty on future funding at the moment, but we are expecting another multi-year funding settlement. The outlook for public finances remains challenging and the Welsh Government will continue to face hard choices as we enter the next spending review period. Any decisions on future funding for sectors across Wales will form part of future discussions as part of the next annual budget and Spending Review.

#### **Priorities for the portfolio**

6. All sectors within my portfolio are facing considerable challenges resulting from the squeeze on public spending and budget reductions. Our 2024-25 budget is worth £700m less than when it was agreed. We worked to mitigate impacts on cultural and sports organisations, but tough decisions were required. We continue to work closely with our sport and cultural arm's length bodies as they develop new plans to operate within their revised budgets, while minimising job losses.

We are aware that organisations within the local culture sectors continue to feel pressure on their funding from governing bodies.

7. The Welsh Government continues to provide direct funding to support the sport, arts and culture sectors to deliver on our Programme for Government commitments. Our Term of Government remit letters set out strategic priorities for our sport and cultural arm's length bodies, such as tackling poverty and the threats of climate change.
8. Other priorities for my portfolio include the delivery of a culture strategy and implementing the recommendations of the Cadw governance review, but summarised as follows:

**Culture** - Continuing to deliver our statutory duties and Programme for Government commitments, including –

- **'Priorities for Culture: 2024-2030'**. There is a live public consultation, launched in late May.
- **Protecting our national cultural institutions for future generations** – We aim to prioritise protection of Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library of Wales as custodians of our cultural heritage, working with both institutions to develop viable estate strategies and to protect their futures in line with their respective commercial strategies.
- **National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales**. The PfG commitment to the dispersed model of the Contemporary Art gallery is progressing well.
- **Redevelopment of Theatr Clwyd and the Creation of a National Football Museum**. Both of these major Investment projects are on track to launch in 2025-26

**Heritage** - Continuing to deliver our statutory duties and Programme for Government commitments, including –

- **Cadw governance review** – to develop and implement an action plan for those recommendations which are affordable and will allow Cadw to grow and operate more effectively. To include a review of options for the future relationship with the RCAHMW and other Historic Wales partners.
- **Invest in, and grow the audience to, Cadw's historic properties** – to improve safe public access, visitor offer and audience development, grow commercial income and conserve and maintain them for future generations – with a current capital investment focus by March 2026 on Caerphilly Castle, Castell Coch, Tintern Abbey and Castell Conwy.
- **Tackling heritage at risk** – oversight of the legislative and policy framework for the historic environment of Wales, building on the groundbreaking Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2023, and supporting the owners and managers of the tens of thousands of protected historic buildings and places throughout Wales.

## Sport

- **Investing in sports facilities** – Recognising the preventative power of sport and physical activity in relation to health and wellbeing, we will reinforce our Programme for Government to use our capital funding to invest in facilities, particularly focused in more disadvantaged areas. We will complete a review by March 2026 of all Sport Wales investment undertaken over the course of the three-year programme of investment (2023-26).
- **Promoting equal access to sport** - We will continue to promote equal access to sport and tackle inequality in all its forms.

9. In response to the specific queries in your letter, I am providing an update below.

### Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales: 2024-2030

10. The draft Priorities for Culture were published for consultation on 23 May<sup>1</sup>. I have agreed an extended period of consultation, to take us through the August summer holiday period and into early September. Committee members will have seen my written statement launching the consultation<sup>2</sup>.

11. The new Priorities set out our vision for the arts, museums, libraries, archives and historic environment sectors for the next five years, providing a succinct and straightforward outline of our ambitions for culture and how we want to shape our cultural services going forward. Culture is an incredibly powerful tool in bringing us all together, delivering social justice and strengthening our national identity. The Priorities are a very clear expression of our belief in the importance of culture and its role supporting delivery across a range of policy areas, improving the lives of people across Wales.

12. Development of the Priorities has been inclusive and values-led, based on extensive engagement with a wide range of sector stakeholders and informed from the outset by our Well-being of Future Generations Act, which puts cultural well-being at the heart of sustainable development and includes the goal to achieve 'A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language'.

13. The draft Priorities focus on three main priorities:

- Bringing people together through culture
- Promoting Wales as a nation of culture
- Ensuring the culture sector is resilient and sustainable

14. These are supported by twenty ambitions which include culture being accessible to everyone in Wales, building relationships at home and abroad through culture and helping the sector to prosper now and in the future.

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<sup>1</sup> [Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales 2024 to 2030 | GOV.WALES](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Written Statement: Launch of consultation on the draft Priorities for Culture: 2024-2030 \(23 May 2024\) | GOV.WALES](#)

15. The draft Priorities fully acknowledge the financial challenges faced by the sector but also look to the future by setting the direction and articulating how we can harness the talent, creativity and collaboration we have within our sector. We are not asking the culture sector to do more with less, but we are setting out some clear priorities which will help steer decision-making at a more granular level.
16. The revenue funding originally allocated for the implementation of the culture strategy in 2024-25 has now been repurposed. The decision to do so was taken with Plaid Cymru, both parties agreeing the first priority was to mitigate against job losses at a number of our cultural Arm's Length Bodies. In repurposing this funding, we communicated the importance of protecting specialist skills to our national cultural bodies and this has been a key consideration for them when looking at their workforce.
17. It is critically important we offer a suitable strategic framework for our sector going forward and we are committed to keeping the Priorities under regular review. We have delivered ambitions which set out a clear strategic direction for the next five years. The consultation allows people to tell us if we've got the balance right. The consultation period offers a key opportunity for everyone with an interest to provide their opinions and we will consider every response.

### **Protecting the National Collections**

18. Shortly after being appointed as Cabinet Secretary for this portfolio, I met with the Chairs and Chief Executives of Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library of Wales. I was assured the collections in their care are currently safe. However, I fully appreciate urgent planning is needed to address the long-term maintenance issues. Their highly skilled staff are also instrumental in caring for our national collections and retaining jobs must be our priority. We have reprioritised funding allocated to delivering the Culture Strategy to mitigate against job losses at our cultural Arm's length bodies, including Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library.
19. The Amgueddfa and the National Library face significant challenges in maintaining their buildings. In 2022, the total backlog and future maintenance requirement for Amgueddfa Cymru was £66.8m. Whilst discussions regarding the maintenance issues across the wider estate are ongoing, the priority is National Museum Cardiff. Between 2020 and 2023, £3m of its grant in aid has funded two major roof projects which have addressed significant leak sites. However, there remains serious concerns regarding its aging mechanical, electrical and plumbing infrastructure and the impact of water ingress due to further issues with the roof. Amgueddfa Cymru estimates an additional £30m over six years is needed to address the problem. The National Library also has significant issues with its roof and needs an additional £3m to address them. We are working with both institutions to develop appropriate plans and potential funding solutions.
20. Our draft priorities for culture set out our priorities and ambitions for culture for the next five years. We haven't held back in our ambitions for the sector and I hope this is an indication of my commitment to continue to explore all opportunities to support our treasured national institutions.

## **Funding of sport in disadvantaged areas**

21. Like other areas in my portfolio, Sport has not been immune to budget reductions. Despite having to work with a reduced budget, both the Welsh Government and Sport Wales remain committed to investing in disadvantaged areas and targeting under-represented groups to deliver on our Programme for Government commitments for sport.
22. Since the Committee published its “Levelling the Playing Field” report on improving participation and facilities in disadvantaged areas, Sport Wales has changed its investment approach so that it specifically directs funding into areas that need it most, through organisations that will be able to create the most impact against the Vision for Sport in Wales. Equalities are at the forefront of the decision-making process including socio-economic factors.
23. For example, £722k was awarded to clubs and organisations within the most deprived 20% areas in Wales through the Be Active Wales Fund in 2023-24, an increase from £580k in 2022-23. Sport Wales has also supported clubs and organisations through funds including the Energy Saving Grant, Court Collaboration and Capital Fund, all supported through the Welsh Government’s Grant in Aid funding. For example, £25,000 was awarded to the Calzaghe Academy for solar panels, insulation and heating in the constituency of Islwyn through the ESG, as well as £127k to Wrexham CBC for heating and LED lights in Clwyd South through the Capital Fund.
24. The Welsh Government and Sport Wales have also supported the sport sector to help manage the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. This included additional funding from the Welsh Government of £500,000 in 2023 and £500,000 in 2024, and approximately £1.5million from Sport Wales, which was distributed amongst NGBs, National Partners and Sport Partnerships. Sport Wales’s revised investment model was used to derive the actual amounts to each partner, for example with 19 partners using all or part of their investment to support their current membership through the creation of a hardship fund, subsidising membership fees, subsidising members travel, and other costs associated with participating in their sport.

## **Future broadcasting and media policy**

25. We remain committed to supporting a strong broadcasting and media sector. This includes exploring options to help ensure an adequate voice for Wales in decisions affecting Wales and enhanced structures to increase transparency and improve accountability. I recently met with BBC Cymru, S4C and ITV Cymru to discuss joint priorities and ambitions for broadcasting. A range of challenges and opportunities were raised, such as the need for sustainable and adequate future funding arrangements, the impact of global platforms and changing consumer consumption habits and the importance of robust governance arrangements. Ensuring the effective implementation of the Media Act was also raised as crucial to the ongoing sustainability of public service broadcasting. We will continue to work with the UK Government Department for Culture, Media and Sport, Ofcom

and broadcasters in coming months on these issues and to identify opportunities to increase investment and activity in the sector in Wales. The Broadcasting and Communications Advisory Group, once established, will have an important role to play in this, to provide guidance and advice on these matters to help improve the provision of broadcast media for Wales.

26. We continue to support the work of the Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group. Following the publication of its recommendation report in the summer of 2023 we are continuing discussions with members on how best to action the proposals set out in the report, as appropriate, and the ways in which industry can play its part in making change. To date, we have supported three dedicated journalism pilot projects, Cardiff University's Sector Data Research project, which was recently published, the Independent Community News Network led dedicated Senedd reporter post and the Inclusive Journalism Cymru led Inclusive "Media Development Lab" project. It has also supported two rounds of the hyper-local Journalism Fund.

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/JMEEW/5564/24

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Chair of the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee

17 June 2024

Dear Chair

I am writing in response to the Legislation, Justice and Constitution Committee's (LJCC) report on the Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No.4), laid on 13 May in respect of the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill ('the Bill').

As you will know, the plenary debate for the Legislative Consent Motion on the Bill was held on 14 May. During the debate I recommended that the Senedd withheld its consent for the Bill and the motion was not agreed.

You will also be aware that the Bill fell following the dissolution of the UK Parliament on 30 May.

I would like to thank the Committee for their detailed consideration of Memorandum No.4. I have considered the conclusions set out in the report and have responded to each of the recommendations below.

### **Legislative Consent**

I note that the Committee agreed that the amendments to the clauses (and Schedule) set out in Memorandum No.4 require the consent of the Senedd.

In respect of clauses 74 and 78, I also note that the Committee agreed that consent should be sought for clause 74 and clause 78(3), reflecting the UK Government's view that legislative consent should be sought when conferring or imposing reserved functions on a devolved Welsh authority.

### **Constitutional concerns**

I welcome the Committee's support in respect of the constitutional concerns the Welsh Government raised on the Bill. I agree with the Committee's conclusion that, were the Bill to have not fallen and been passed by the UK Parliament without the consent of the Senedd, this would have brought into question the operation of the Sewel Convention.

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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.

## Recommendations

### **Recommendation 1**

Should the Bill be enacted in its current form, the Cabinet Secretary should confirm if it is the Welsh Government's intention to bring forward provisions in a Bill that would re-delegate to the Welsh Ministers the regulation-making powers under section 79 of the New Roads and Street Works Act 1991 (subject to the Welsh Ministers consulting the appropriate UK Minister in accordance with paragraph 11(2) of Schedule 7B to the Government of Wales Act 2006).

#### **Response:**

The Bill fell following the dissolution of Parliament.

### **Recommendation 2**

The Cabinet Secretary should, during the relevant consent debate for the Bill, provide full details to explain his statement that a number of the Bill's provisions could impact on the UK's EU Data Adequacy status and have the potential to lead to legal challenge in the Court of Justice of the European Union.

#### **Response:**

I note in the report that the Committee found concerns around the potential for legal challenge in the Court of Justice of the European Union in respect of the Bill's impact upon the UK's EU Data Adequacy status, to be stark and concerning.

During the Legislative Consent Motion debate, I explained the provisions in the Bill which we consider to have the potential of a review by the European Commission, or legal challenge in the Court of Justice of the European Union. This included those provisions which were seen to weaken the independence of the Information Commissioner and undermine individual rights.

I went on to explain that as the Bill amended the statutory definition of personal data, there was a risk that a broader range of health and social care data could have been included in the scope of free trade agreements.

Although the Bill has fallen, the importance of retaining EU data adequacy remains and my officials will monitor the matter going forward.

### **Recommendation 3**

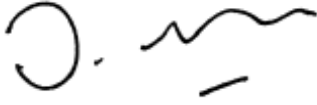
The Cabinet Secretary should make clear during the relevant consent debate for the Bill whether, in addition to the UK-EU obligations already cited, the Welsh Government considers the Bill has implications for other international arrangements such as the UK-US data bridge established in 2023. If so, the Cabinet Secretary should provide detailed information.

#### **Response:**

During the motion debate I set out my concerns that the Bill signalled the beginning of the UK's divergence from the data protection regime currently in place across the EU. Further, that this approach had the potential to undermine the data protection provisions in the Trade and Co-operation Agreement across a broad range of policy areas and could lead to the potential loss of EU data adequacy.

I am copying this letter to the Chair of the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language

Jeremy Miles MS  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language

2 July 2024

Dear Jeremy,

Response to the Committee's report on the Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 4) on the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill

Thank you for your letter dated 17 June 2024 in which you responded to the recommendations in our report on the Welsh Government's Supplementary Legislative Consent Memorandum (Memorandum No. 4) on the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill. We considered your letter at our meetings on 24 June and 1 July.

We are aware that the Bill failed to complete its passage through the UK Parliament before the prorogue of Parliament on 24 May 2024 and its dissolution on 30 May 2024.

Nonetheless, the Committee has agreed to write to you with the aim of correcting a misunderstanding which appears in your letter. In the letter you state:

*"In respect of clauses 74 and 78, I also note that the Committee agreed that consent should be sought for clause 74 and clause 78(3), reflecting the UK Government's view that legislative consent should be sought when conferring or imposing reserved functions on a devolved Welsh authority."*

Unfortunately, this does not accurately reflect the conclusion we arrived at in our report on Memorandum No. 4 or indeed the views we expressed on the provisions in the Bill relating to digital verification services in our reports on earlier legislative consent memoranda for the Bill.

To confirm for the record, in light of paragraphs 87 to 95 of our report on Memorandum No. 4, conclusion 8 states:

*"While we disagree with the Welsh Government's position on the requirement for legislative consent in respect of clauses 74 and 78 (and related amendments to those clauses), we support the view that, where matters are considered to relate to devolved matters, the conferral of regulation-making powers solely upon the Secretary of State is inappropriate. In this respect, **we note the UK Government's view** that legislative consent should be sought when conferring or imposing reserved functions on a devolved Welsh authority and, as a result, it considers that agreement should be sought for clause 74 and clause 78(3)." (Emphasis added.)*

I am copying this letter to the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Hedges". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Mike Hedges  
Chair



Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair Culture, Communication, Welsh Language,  
Sport and International Relations Committee

17 June 2024

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 21 May to Lesley Griffiths MS, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice regarding the distribution of funding for magazines by the Books Council Wales. I am responding as publishing falls within my portfolio responsibilities.

The Welsh Government recognises the importance of the Books Council to the publishing sector in Wales. We value the Books Council's crucial contribution to our rich linguistic and cultural life, the important role it plays in promoting reading for pleasure, the assistance it gives to the publishing sector, as well as its significant contribution to the Welsh Government's ambition for growing the Welsh language in line with our Welsh language strategy, *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*. We also recognise the importance of magazines to the sector in Wales and the role they play in encouraging high quality writing and debate of culture, literature and current affairs and in supplementing content provided through broadsheet media.

In response to the specific points raised in your letter:

*What discussions the Welsh Government has had with the Books Council of Wales about its ongoing budget needs.*

We are committed to working with the Books Council as a key partner to support the publishing sector. In line with grant monitoring arrangements, official level meetings are held with the Books Council on a quarterly basis, and I met with the Books Council in Aberystwyth on 6 June to commence my formal Ministerial six-monthly meeting arrangements. These formal arrangements support discussion on a range of matters, including finance and budget needs and complement the regular, informal engagement between my officials and the Books Council. This close working relationship enables the Books Council to highlight any opportunities and challenges in a timely manner, including the financial pressures being faced by the sector. Where possible, we take action in response to support the industry. Examples of this include the additional funding made available in response to the cost of living crisis and to deliver the New Audiences Funds.

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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.

*What considerations the Welsh Government has given to providing additional support to the Books Council of Wales, beyond what has been provided by the Creative Wales in 2024-25.*

Recognising the important contribution of the Books Council's work to delivery of wider portfolio priorities, grants are awarded to the Books Council from other Welsh Government departments. An annual Education grant of £140,000 is awarded to support literacy programmes such as World Book Day, Summer Reading Challenge and Quick Reads. The Education Department also awarded an additional £5m for a book gifting scheme in 2021-22, *Schools Love Reading*, to promote reading. The Culture Division of the Welsh Government is supporting the Reading Well project in 2024-25 with £50,000 of funding to enable provision of books and e-books to relaunch the Reading Well for dementia scheme in Welsh public libraries. The Culture Division also has provided £20,500 of funding in 2024-25 to support the delivery of the Summer Reading Challenge in Welsh public libraries. The Curriculum Division and Cymraeg 2050 are jointly funding a grant of over £800,000 to the Books Council for a project called Rhyngom. This is a three-year grant (2022-25) to create reading materials for learners between the ages of 3-16 with an insight into Wales' culture, people, and history, as well as the wider world. The scheme supports the Curriculum for Wales' 4 purposes, supports key empathy skills, and sparks learners' imagination, whilst also contributing to their mental and emotional wellbeing.

These grants, over and above the core funding provided by Creative Wales, inject further investment into the publishing sector and its broader infrastructure to support its ongoing sustainability.

*What considerations the Welsh Government has given to ensuring there is sufficient financial support available to support magazine journalism in Wales.*

We are continuing to work with the Books Council to explore opportunities to secure additional funding for the sector, including for magazines. Through the Co-operation Agreement budget, £235,000 additional funding has been awarded to the Books Council to support Welsh magazines. £14,941 was awarded to magazines in June 2021 and a further £30,000 in December 2021 from the emergency funding awarded in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. £87,231 of the £300,000 fund for publishers and booksellers awarded in response to the cost of living crisis was allocated to magazines. In addition, the New Audiences Funds have benefitted magazines.

The Welsh Government is also taking forward wider activity to support journalistic content, including funding to support hyper-locals and the Senedd reporter project, and through the work of the Wales Public Interest Journalism Working Group. The Group brings together representatives, including the Books Council, to discuss issues facing print media in Wales and potential actions to help ensure a sustainable sector for the future. These discussions have and will continue to include Welsh magazine publications and will help support decisions on the allocation of the 2024/25 budget for media and journalism. In addition, the Welsh Government, through Mentrau Iaith Cymru, supports a network of Papurau Bro (Welsh language community local newspapers) throughout Wales, with £93,000 awarded for 2024-25.

As you appreciate, the Welsh Government's 2024-25 Budget was developed amidst the toughest financial situation Wales has faced since the start of devolution, with Ministers having to make stark and painful choices on spending plans in response. In the context of these extremely challenging economic times, I remain committed to working with the Books

Council to explore every opportunity to support the publishing sector, recognising its importance to the people of Wales.

Your sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Murphy". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a large initial "S" and a stylized "M".

**Sarah Murphy AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Partnership

*Planet: the Welsh Internationalist* magazine  
(Berw Ltd.)



02.07. 2024

Dear Delyth Jewell and colleagues,

Good evening. I'm writing to you and to the Culture Committee in advance of your meeting on 10 July 2024 as a follow up to correspondence from BCW from the 4<sup>th</sup> of June that was later published on your website. Many thanks to you and the committee members for the ongoing discussion of the concerns around funding for magazines – we're very grateful for the time you are dedicating to this.

I'm writing to again correct and clarify the record regarding a number of points made by BCW, this time in their letter from 04.06.24 as a follow up to correspondence redressing other points made by BCW. Please can this letter also be published on the Senedd website and circulated to the committee.

Helgard Krause makes the following, potentially misleading claim in her letter: 'The tender is for a brand-new magazine with unsuccessful applicants from the previous round welcome to apply. However, none of the unsuccessful applicants decided to take up this new opportunity.' For avoidance of any doubt, it's absolutely not the case that *Planet* (and, I imagine, *New Welsh Review*) was eligible, let alone welcome to apply for the tender for a 'brand-new' magazine.

Firstly, and obviously, in *Planet's* case we would not be eligible as the 2024 tender is (to quote from BCW's tender document) for a single 'literary' magazine only 'which covers the following areas: short fiction, creative non-fiction, literary review and criticism'. Please see attached the 2024 tender. This is in contrast to the 2023 tender, which was divided into several categories – one opportunity being for 'Funding for general magazines', which would include 'coverage of a range of topics. Possible subject areas could include current affairs, politics, history, economics, the arts (e.g. visual arts, music, drama, dance, and literature), culture (including popular culture), media, the environment, sport and leisure.' This wider general magazines category is the one which matched *Planet's* remit, and the category we have always applied for. Another, narrower, category was 'Funding for literary magazines', plus opportunities for much smaller grants for 'Funding for development'. I've also attached this earlier tender for your records.

Secondly, and even more obviously, as the tender document and wider BCW publicity of this tender makes clear, this opportunity, first announced in December 2023 with the tender publicised from March 2024 is for a 'brand-new magazine'. Therefore, it would be absurd to

suggest that a magazine that had existed from 1970 onwards and ceased publishing after its February 2024 – April 2024 issue (i.e. *Planet*) would ever have been eligible, nor would a literary magazine that had been published since 1988 – i.e. *New Welsh Review* (whose work is ongoing – as Parthian Books purchased the rights earlier this year).

In light of all this, it barely needs to be said that nothing in all our correspondence with BCW since the funding decision was made known to us suggests that we – as *Planet* or as a publishing company more generally – would be eligible, let alone welcome, to apply for this new tender. Indeed, the terms of the 2024 tender seem to explicitly exclude the possibility of *Planet* or *New Welsh Review* being able to apply. The reference in BCW's correspondence with the Committee and accompanying documents re. BCW's strategic priority of 'challenging incumbency' with regard to applicants to their funding schemes also bears this out.

I'm writing also to clarify and redress potential misunderstanding re. the following sentence in the letter from Helgard Krause: 'A total of 9 franchise applications were evaluated against all relevant criteria; five applications did not meet these criteria and weren't funded at all.' This is misleading as it could suggest that *Planet* did not meet one or more of the relevant funding criteria, and so was lacking in some way, for reasons somehow under our control, and that we were fully aware of all criteria that would be considered as part of our application. This is not the case: the only 'rationale' BCW could find to remove funding from *Planet* and Berw Ltd (the company which owns *Planet*) were variously untrue, and/or absurd and mind-bogglingly unfair (and likely defamatory) arguments that were detailed in our Zoom meeting with yourself in Spring 2024, emerging from a process significantly lacking in transparency, with further points outlined in correspondence (and attachments) from 17.04.24, 13.05.24 and 14.05.24. BCW's arguments were further revealed to be double-think when it emerged in December 2023 that there was c. £95,000 left to disburse from the budget for the tender we applied to in 2023.

It's worth noting that BCW confirmed in December 2023 that they had relayed 'the full extent of the subcommittee's feedback [about *Planet* – i.e. the full rationale for denying us funding]' – feedback that we subsequently challenged in full with detailed evidence, with BCW unable to provide what I would consider any kind of coherent come-back, let alone any counter-evidence.

I would like to reiterate two points: firstly, that BCW like any organisation is not a monolith – we've also experienced genuine kindness, support and good sense in various BCW contexts over the years that we remain grateful for, and in light of longstanding (and sometimes ongoing) positive contributions to the Welsh public sphere from BCW, it's tragic that recent experience has been so disappointing and demoralising for a number of publishers.

Secondly, the aim of my correspondence is to constructively highlight serious concerns about the funding system for the benefit of all publishers, as well as redressing anything potentially untrue or misleading about *Planet* (in the hope we can apply for funding in the future in a reformed system). We wouldn't want any other publisher to have experienced what we have been through recently. More broadly, following the experience of *Planet* and *New Welsh Review* at the forefront of a campaign for ethical funding conditions, I believe that there needs to be a publishing and media environment where magazines and their workers feel they can publicly raise issues with regard to funding cuts and targets and their impact on fair working practices, without fear of losing the publications and livelihoods they hold so dear.

I'm now the sole remaining Director of Berw Ltd with limited time, and having ceased trading the company has no employees – this means I feel more vulnerable than ever when raising these

concerns. As a micro-organisation, our resources and access to PR, legal and political contacts were always dwarfed by those available to funding bodies. Despite this, as time allows, I'm determined to continue to engage with this issue.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emily Trahair', with a small apostrophe at the end.

Emily Trahair



CYNGOR LLYFRAU CYMRU  
BOOKS COUNCIL of WALES

## Books Council of Wales

Publishing Development Department

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### Invitation to Tender

#### English-language Publishing Grants NEW LITERARY MAGAZINE 2024–2028

We are inviting applicants for a four-year contract for funding a brand-new magazine under the Cultural Periodicals Grant.

The scheme already supports a number of cultural magazines that feature good writing, high-quality journalism, review and debate on a range of topics.

This new tender opportunity seeks specifically to award funding to a single new English-language literary magazine with a strong focus on fiction and creative non-fiction, featuring robust reviews and commentary, and which has a robust, adaptable business model at its core.

For successful shortlisted applicants, a sum of up to £5,000 is available to help cover business and production costs incurred in preparing a sample issue for the final phase of the tender process.

### Eligibility and Qualification

*Who may apply*

**Only publishing companies based in Wales can apply.**

Please note: successful applicants must have a separate bank account for the magazine before the first grant instalment can be paid and will need to become a legally incorporated body by the end of the financial year.

The scheme **does not fund**:

- small magazines which are likely to sell no more than 400 copies (see the guidelines for the Small Magazines Scheme in English);
- educational magazines or academic journals;
- magazines that are published by organisations and societies, unless they have an appeal beyond the organisations' membership;
- magazines of purely or predominately local interest.

## The Grant

- A sum of £80,000 per annum, for four years, is ring-fenced for this new tender (paid pro rata for the first year, from October 2024.)
- This funding will be provided for one engagingly written, good-quality literary magazine which covers the following areas: short fiction, creative non-fiction, literary review and criticism.
- In common with all magazines funded under this heading, this new title must contain book reviews to support the publishing industry in Wales as a whole.
- By the end of the award period, we will aim to fund at a gearing ratio (i.e. proportion of grant income to income generated from other sources) of up to 2:1.
- Eligible magazines can be delivered on multiple platforms, but a print element is required.
- The minimum average circulation per issue for a multi-focus magazine is set at 700 for the first year of the grant, rising to 1,000 by the end of the award period.
- The grant is offered as a four-year contract, subject to satisfactory annual review of the franchise holder and to the continuation of funding from Welsh Government. Subject to funding, the franchise will go out to tender again at the end of this period.

## Assessment Criteria and Priorities

The following matters will be of particular consideration during assessment:

- Making a significant contribution to the culture of Wales
- Commitment to good quality, engaging writing, and high editorial standards
- Commitment to showcasing the English-language literature of Wales through a robust combination of producing new writing as well as fostering both reviews and criticism
- Emphasis on high-quality design and production values, in line with contemporary English-language magazine standards
- A robust business plan which includes sales forecasting, distribution models in and beyond Wales, subscription management, advertising revenue, and other income-raising schemes to attract funding and sponsorship
- Specific editorial policies that reflect commitment to diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility in publishing – i.e., applicants must implement a formal policy for commissioning underrepresented writers, assembling a diverse board, and broadening the range of individuals contributing to production

- A demonstrated commitment to skills development and the health of the publishing ecosystem in Wales (e.g., through the implementation of schemes such as 'temporary' board membership, mentoring schemes, staff development, and opportunities in design, editorial, and contributor writing)
- Value for money (including prudent and efficient management of costs and the projected grant per copy sold)
- The ability to adhere to a publishing schedule
- Marketing and publicity, with an emphasis on reaching and developing readerships
- The applicant's existing experience and skills in magazine publishing

## Applications

Please note that this is a two-stage application process. Applicants successful in Stage 1 will be invited to submit additional documents for Stage 2, as well as attend an in-person interview.

### Stage 1:

For Stage 1, all applicants must submit a brief application form (supplied with this document). This must be returned to the Publishing Development Department by email (address at the bottom of this document) by **5pm on 15 April 2024**. Any significant questions or concerns will be discussed with applicants prior to being invited to submit a full application.

### Stage 2:

Applications should include the following:

- 1) **Narrative report** with sections as follows:  
*Please note: If the same information is relevant to several of the headings, you needn't repeat information provided elsewhere in the narrative report. You may simply skip a heading you have already covered, indicating where the information is provided.*

## Plans and Projections

- a. Editorial policy and plans – may include editorial process & procedure, commissioning strategies, balance between new writing, reviews, and criticism, etc
  - b. Design and production - can encompass both print and digital
  - c. List of persons involved, including brief biographies and experience
  - d. Sales and distribution strategy
  - e. Marketing and publicity policy and plans
  - f. Plans for website development and development of digital formats
  - g. Financial projections, including other possible funding/sponsorship
- 2) **Forecast sales & distribution figures** (please use the form provided)
  - 3) **Budgets**
    - i. One-year budget projections (please use the form provided)
    - ii. Four-year budget plan

- 4) **Company structure** please describe your proposed company structure, or discuss models or specific magazines that would want your structure to emulate
- 5) **Sample Issues**  
A full mock-up of the first issue, including cover design; sample editorial, if applicable; contents page, and 2-3 sample articles (including images, if applicable) showing internal design, layout and paper.  
Outline plans for the subsequent three issues should also be submitted.
- 6) **In-person interview with English-Language Publishing Development Subcommittee**  
The interview panel will consist of 8 members of the subcommittee and two external industry experts, plus several members of Books Council staff for administrative purposes (names of all present to be provided closer to the interview date).

***The interviews will take place in Aberystwyth, at the Pantyfedwyn Foundation. If you have any requirements or questions regarding accessibility, please let us know.***

## **Format:**

Please submit all Stage 1 material **by 15 April 2024** in the following formats:

By email in Word and Excel to [English.Grants@books.wales](mailto:English.Grants@books.wales) (with the subject line 'New Literary Magazine Application')

## **Timetable:**

Deadline for stage 1 application form: 15 April 2024  
Notification of shortlist: on or before 22 April 2024  
Full Application deadline: 5 July 2024  
Interviews: 23–24 July 2024 (in person, in Aberystwyth)  
Notification of decisions: August 2024  
Funding to begin: October 2024

If you have any questions about eligibility or application process, please contact:

**Dr Ashley Owen,**  
Publishing Development Department,  
Books Council of Wales,  
Castell Brychan,  
Aberystwyth,  
Ceredigion,  
SY23 2JB  
Tel: 01970 629555 Email: [English.Grants@books.wales](mailto:English.Grants@books.wales)

## **Complaints**

If you are dissatisfied with the way in which we handle your application, you can ask for a copy of our Complaints Process. Please note that you can only lodge a complaint if you believe that we have not followed our outlined process in dealing with your application, and your complaint

must be received within 10 days of the action to which the complaint refers. You cannot use the complaints process to appeal against the subcommittee's decision.

## **Payment of Grants**

Grants are normally paid in equal sums at the beginning of each quarter. Publishers should claim payments by sending four copies of each print issue to the Publishing Grants Department or by informing the Grants Department that a new digital issue is available and ensuring access to the issue.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation of Work Funded**

The Books Council will request sales figures and other reports on an annual basis. It will also hold an annual review meeting with each franchise holder to review performance and targets.

[Mae fersiwn Cymraeg o'r canllawiau hyn ar gael.](#)  
[A Welsh-language version of these guidelines is available.](#)



## Books Council of Wales

Publishing Development Department

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### Invitation to Tender

#### English-language Publishing Grants Cultural Periodicals 2024-2028

Applications are invited for four-year funding under the Cultural Periodicals Grant.

The scheme supports a number of cultural magazines that feature good writing, high-quality journalism, review and debate on a range of topics.

For the period from 1 April 2024 - 31 March 2028, applications will be considered from publishers based in Wales in one of the following areas:

#### Funding for development

- Seed funding will be provided for new, innovative ventures featuring good, engaging writing.
- Grants from this fund will be provided to publishers of magazines based in Wales for one franchise period only (after which applicants may apply for funding either as 'general' or 'literary' magazines).
- Digital, print, and hybrid applications are eligible.
- Grants may be given to multiple recipients.
- It is anticipated that funding for magazines of this kind would range from £2,500 to c. £10,000.

Please note that while funding in this area aims to develop fresh ideas and emerging ventures, new applicants are equally welcome to apply for grant-support under the other headings instead.

#### Funding for general magazines

- Grants will be provided for general magazines featuring good writing and high-quality journalism, review and debate of all kinds.
- Magazines should include coverage of a range of topics. Possible subject areas could include current affairs, politics, history, economics, the arts (e.g. visual arts, music, drama, dance, and literature), culture (including popular culture), media, the environment, sport and leisure.
- Minimum average circulation per issue across all platforms is set at 1,000.
- We will aim to fund at a gearing ratio (i.e. proportion of grant income to income generated from other sources) of up to 2:1 **or** up to 50% of total expenditure (see 'The Grant' section below for further information).
- Eligible magazines should be available in more than one format (e.g. web/app/e-pub/print etc.).

- Grants may be given to multiple recipients.
- It is anticipated that funding for general magazines would range between £2,500 and c. £55,000.

#### Funding for literary magazines

- Funding will be provided for engagingly written, good-quality literary magazines in Wales which cover one or more of the following areas as their primary focus: short fiction, poetry, creative non-fiction, literary review/criticism. Literary writing should be the chief focus of magazines funded in this area, but it needn't be the sole focus.
- Magazines can have a single focus or feature a combination of the above. It is envisaged that the allocation of funding would ensure the fewest gaps possible in provision, while avoiding significant overlap of material.
- Magazines funded under this heading must contain book reviews in order to support the publishing industry in Wales as a whole.
- We will aim to fund at a gearing ratio (i.e. proportion of grant income to income generated from other sources) of up to 2:1 **or** up to 50% of total expenditure.
- Grants may be given to multiple recipients.
- Eligible magazines can be digital only or delivered on multiple platforms (including print). Publishers may choose to present different issues of the same magazine on separate formats should they wish (for example, regular digital issues plus less frequently published print publications, such as monthly digital issues plus an annual printed digest, two digital-only issues plus two print and digital issues per year etc.).
- The minimum average circulation per issue of a single-focus magazine will be set at 400.
- The minimum average circulation per issue for a multi-focus magazine will be set at 500.
- It is anticipated that funding for magazines of this kind would range from £2,500 to c. £55,000.

## Eligibility and Qualification

*Who may apply*

**Only publishing companies based in Wales can apply.**

Recipients of grants over £8,000 per annum must be legally incorporated bodies; these will generally be not-for-profit companies limited by guarantee.

Recipients of smaller grants must have separate bank accounts and appropriate arrangements for financial and general management.

The scheme **does not fund**:

- small magazines which are likely to sell no more than 400 copies (see the guidelines for the Small Magazines Scheme in English);
- educational magazines or academic journals;
- magazines that are published by organisations and societies, unless they have an appeal beyond the organisations' membership;
- magazines of local interest.

## The Grant

- The total annual budget for this scheme is in the region of £180,000. No sum is ring-fenced for any one area, but it is likely that funding will be awarded in all the areas of focus described above.

- The grant level for general and literary magazines will be aimed towards reaching a gearing ratio of up to 2:1 (i.e. BCW funding would provide up to two thirds of the total income of the magazine, with at least a third of income to be generated by the magazine publishers through sales, advertising revenue, sponsorship, contribution in kind etc. For guidelines on calculating contribution in kind please see appendix 1 of this document).
- Funding for an individual title awarded under the general or literary heading is likely to range between £2,500 and c.£55,000 per annum.
- Funding for an individual title awarded under the development fund heading is likely to range between £2,500 and c.£10,000 per annum.
- Grants are offered as four-year franchises, subject to satisfactory annual review of the franchise holder, and subject to the continuation of funding from Welsh Government.

## Assessment Criteria and Priorities

In the 2024-2028 application process, the following matters will be of particular consideration:

- Commitment to good quality, engaging writing, informed debate and high editorial standards
- Specific editorial policies that reflect commitment diversity, inclusivity, and accessibility in publishing, in line with the Books Council's strategic plan – ie, applicants must implement a formal policy for commissioning underrepresented writers, diversifying their Board membership, and broadening the range of individuals contributing to production
- The ability to make a significant contribution to the culture of Wales
- A demonstrated commitment to skills development and the health of the publishing ecosystem in Wales (eg, through the implementation of schemes such as 'temporary' board membership, mentoring schemes, and opportunities in design, editorial, and contributor writing)
- Clarity of role in relation to other magazines. The Books Council will consider whether a proposed title is likely to fill a gap in provision *or* perform more effectively than competing titles
- Value for money (including prudent and efficient management of costs and the projected grant per copy sold)
- The ability to attract funding, sponsorship and contributions in kind from other sources
- The ability to adhere to a publishing schedule
- Marketing and publicity, with an emphasis on reaching and developing readerships
- The applicant's ability to distribute throughout Wales and (where appropriate) beyond
- Design and production (appropriate to the format and market)
- The ability to develop content in multiple formats (e.g. print, web, app, e-pub etc.)
- Track record (if applicable)

## Applications

### Stage 1:

Please note that this is a two-stage application process. During the initial stage all applicants must submit a brief application form (supplied with this document). This must be returned to the Publishing Development Department by email (address at the bottom of this document) by **5pm on 25 August 2023**. Any significant clarification or concerns will be discussed with applicants prior to being invited to submit a full application.

## Stage 2:

Applications should include the following:

1) **Application form** (only if there are any changes to the form submitted in stage 1).

2) **Narrative report** with sections and subsections as follows:

If the same information is relevant to several of the headings, you needn't repeat information provided elsewhere in the narrative report. You may simply skip a heading if you have already provided this information.

### *i. Historical narrative*

This section should highlight any particular achievements paying particular attention to the previous 12 months (currently funded magazines should summarise successful meeting of targets and identify areas that need improvement during the current franchise period); the following matters should also be addressed (this is not an exhaustive list):

- a. Editorial policy and vision of the magazine
- b. Design and production
- c. Staffing
- d. Sales and distribution
- e. Marketing and publicity
- f. Website and digital publishing
- g. Finance

Publishers of periodicals that are not currently in operation may leave this section blank.

### *ii. Future plans and projections*

This section should lay out plans and policy for the 2024-2028 franchise period:

- a. Editorial policy and plans
- b. Design plans
- c. Staffing (including brief biographies and experience where applicable, current staffing arrangements and plans for staff development and retention)
- d. Sales and distribution strategy
- e. Marketing and publicity policy and plans
- f. Plans for website development and development of digital formats
- g. Financial projections, including other possible funding/sponsorship
- h. A brief outline of your measure of success – what would a successful year look like for your publication?

3) **Sales figures and forecasts** (please use the form provided)

4) **Budgets** (please use the forms provided)

- i.* Six-month profit and loss (if you are not currently in operation, you may leave this section blank)
- ii.* One-year budget projections

5) **Audited accounts for 2023/24** (non-audited accounts are acceptable for those in receipt of less than £8,000 in grant-aid and for new enterprises, a statement of the current financial situation may be substituted)

6) **Company structure** (please use the form provided, and indicate any changes to the Board, etc.)

- 7) **Eight sample issues (currently-funded magazines)**  
**Eight sample copies of the last two issues of the magazine (new applicants)**  
If the application is from an existing magazine, copies of previous issues should be sent. In the case of new proposed magazines or new proposed sections (or significant changes to existing magazines), the following should be included: a full mock-up of the first issue, including cover design; sample editorial, if applicable; contents page, and entire contents (including images, if applicable) showing internal design, layout and paper. Outline plans for the subsequent three issues should also be submitted.

**Format:**

Please submit all material **by 6 October 2023** in the following formats:

By email in Word and Excel to [English.Grants@books.wales](mailto:English.Grants@books.wales) (with the subject line 'Cultural Periodicals Application')

**Timetable:**

Deadline for stage 1 application form: 25 August 2023  
Full Application deadline: 6 October 2023  
Shortlisting and interviews: November-December 2023  
Notification of decisions: December 2023  
Funding to begin: 1 April 2024

If you have any questions about eligibility or application process, please contact Ashley Owen, Publishing Development Department, Books Council of Wales, Castell Brychan, Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2JB Tel: 01970 629555 Email: [English.Grants@books.wales](mailto:English.Grants@books.wales)

Mae fersiwn Cymraeg o'r canllawiau hyn ar gael.  
A Welsh-language version of these guidelines is available.

## Guidelines for Contributions in Kind

In-kind contributions will be taken into account when assessing the income of the applicant and determining the level of grant that can be issued in line with the 2:1 match-funding ratio criteria required by the Books Council of Wales. Applicants should use the following guidelines when calculating the value of their in-kind contributions. You will need to tell us how you have calculated this.

- Contributions could include computers or other equipment donated; use of premises donated specifically, and the provision of office space and associated costs provided by the host organisation. These should be valued as follows: equipment which is donated should be included at the advertised market price if new, or at a reasonable estimate of the second-hand price if not new. Use of premises provided for the organization should be calculated at the appropriate market value; and office space and associated costs such as telephone charges, photocopying etc. should be calculated at appropriate market value. If it is shared with other users the cost should be divided proportionately.
- The onus will be on the applicant to demonstrate how they have calculated the market value of items rented or purchased: You should provide evidence of market value, such as published rates for hiring premises, or price list for equipment and services.
- Suppliers' discounts can be factored into CIK when they demonstrably show support for the organization, for example a printing discount from a Welsh printing company that is explicitly given in recognition of the role the organization plays in Welsh culture. But discounts that fit these criteria must be substantiated by the supplier as discount specific to the organization as a contribution, rather than a standard trade discount.
- Specialist's advice and expertise provided free of charge and other forms of voluntary labour donated to the organization can be calculated as CIK. Rates for voluntary labour contributions can vary considerably depending on the nature of the work to be undertaken.
- You should calculate the rate at the appropriate market value for what it would cost you to actually hire in the labour or services being donated. We will need to see clear evidence on how you have arrived at the rates you are using. Your evidence may include published daily rates for consultancy or legal advice or estimates of what reasonable salaries for the type of work being donated would be, for example an intern's rate should be calculated at minimum wage to reflect the basic administrative nature of the role. If an intern is employed as a quid pro quo with a host organization, this should not be factored in as a CIK, as in this instance, the service is being provided to the contributor.
- Board members of companies limited by guarantee (non-profit distribution) should not receive financial rewards for their expected duties as a board member. If a board member donates voluntary labour or services, they will technically be receiving a financial sum for that labour or service as they have financial value. Therefore, any voluntary labour or services donated by board members of companies limited by guarantee can only be counted if it is work beyond their normal expected duties as a board member, and can clearly be shown not to represent a conflict of interest.

Mae fersiwn Cymraeg o'r canllawiau hyn ar gael.  
A Welsh-language version of these guidelines is available.

Sarah Murphy MS

Minister for Social Partnership

Welsh Government

27 June 2024

## **Books Council of Wales visit and ongoing impact of funding cuts**

Dear Sarah

Thank you for your letter on 17 June 2024. Further to that letter, the Committee is writing to express our continued concern regarding the cuts to Books Council of Wales's funding and to request further information about your recent visit to the Books Council.

On 18 June 2024 you gave a statement in Plenary which re-iterated the Welsh Government's ongoing commitment to supporting creative skills. This statement highlighted the support provided by the Creative Skills Fund to Creative Wales's three priority sectors: namely, music; screen, and games, animation and immersive technology. You noted that funding cuts to this support stream have been minimal, and have provided assistance to 17 projects this year, as in previous years. The Committee welcomes the Welsh Government's ongoing support for these sectors. Your statement, however, also highlighted areas of the portfolio which have suffered reductions, with the Books Council of Wales as an example.

In recent months, this Committee has received numerous items of correspondence raising concerns about the effect of funding cuts to the Books Council of Wales. In August 2023, an open letter to the Welsh Government, Creative Wales and the Books Council of Wales to save Welsh Magazines & Websites highlighted poor working conditions for many in the publishing sector. This letter cites Emily Trahair's editorial for Planet magazine in 2022, which states that despite being paid to work only 27 hours a week, she was in fact working between 40 and 70 hours, 'and occasionally well over 80....necessitated by the grant franchises and cuts.' As you will be aware, Planet magazine has now ceased publication entirely. These examples highlight the huge effect that the ongoing cuts to the

Books Council's funding have had for those working in the publishing industry, particularly in terms of working conditions and associated health and wellbeing.

In October 2023, the Committee published its report, Behind the scenes: the creative industries workforce. My foreword to this report stated that 'with the right interventions, we hope to see more workers participate in all sectors of the creative industries, leading to its continued growth.' This highlights the need to improve working potential across all creative sectors. The report made 13 recommendations, including:

Recommendation 8. We recommend that the Welsh Government increases the funding available through the Creative Skills Fund and works with the industry to identify future skills gaps.

The Committee asks what consideration has been given to expanding the support offered by the Creative Skills Fund to similarly benefit the publishing industry. We would also be grateful if you would provide details of your recent visit to the Books Council of Wales, with particular reference to the impact of the ongoing funding cuts and the future of the organisation.

Yours sincerely



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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

Delyth Jewell  
Chair CCWLSIR Committee

[delyth.jewell@senedd.wales](mailto:delyth.jewell@senedd.wales)

17 June 2024

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter of 24 May regarding the Ireland Wales Ministerial Forum.

While previous forums have been held in autumn, we had sought to hold the 2024 Ministerial Forum in Cork in June. However, due to the UK general election taking place in July, this was postponed, and we are now actively seeking alternative dates for the 2024 forum.

While we wait for a new date to be confirmed, my officials continue to deliver the Shared Statement objectives and Joint Action Plan. An updated report, produced in collaboration with Irish Government officials, will be prepared ahead of the future forum. I am, however, pleased to share some elements that have progressed as a result of the Forum hosted in Wales in October 2023.

Promoting and safeguarding our respective languages was one of the key themes of the 2023 Forum and, as a result of the visit around the Ministerial Forum, further collaborative work has moved forward in shared learning. This has included a visit by officials to Udaras na Gaeltachta in Galway (facilitated by the Irish Government) to discuss economic development as linked to language planning and developments linked to the use of the common European Framework of Reference for language.

Officials have also recently visited Trinity College Dublin and the ADAPT centre to discuss Irish language technology, where they took part in a seminar organised by the Irish Government on Artificial Intelligence, as applied to language policy.

In March, M-SParc, along with members of the AgriTech.Wales cluster visited University College Dublin's Lyons Farm and Nova campus. M-SParc's visit was an agreed action from the Forum in October.

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[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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.

Finally, during the former Minister for Social Justice's visit to Dublin for St David's Day, she met with the Irish Government's Basic Income policy team to learn more about Ireland's approach to basic income, its support for arts practitioners and to share our approach on support for care leavers.

I will update you when there is a new date agreed for the Ministerial Forum.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Getting". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'V' and a long, sweeping tail on the 'g'.

**VAUGHAN GETHING**

Sarah Murphy AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Partnership

Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair Culture, Communication, Welsh Language, Sport and  
International Relations Committee

18 June 2024

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter of 22 May seeking information on the steps the Welsh Government has taken to explore opportunities for re-joining Creative Europe, related to the Committee's inquiry on Culture and the new relationship with the European Union.

The Welsh Government has always seen the merits of Creative Europe. The benefits of the programme were highlighted during Jeremy Miles MS, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language and Lesley Griffith MS, Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice's evidence session at Committee on 15 May. We remain committed to exploring opportunities for the UK to re-join the Creative Europe programme as a third country, as it has for the Horizon Europe programme.

However, our ability to take forward serious discussions on this matter is determined by the context of relations between the UK Government and the EU. These relations are dependent in large part on the approach of the new European Parliament after the recent elections and appointment of a new European Commission on the one hand and by the approach of an incoming UK Government after the UK General Election. Our intention, therefore, is to progress discussions on this matter with the incoming UK Government after the General Election.

Your sincerely,



**Sarah Murphy AS/MS**  
Y Gweinidog Partneriaeth Gymdeithasol  
Minister for Social Partnership

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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.

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Chair  
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport,  
and International Relations Committee  
[seneddculture@senedd.wales](mailto:seneddculture@senedd.wales)

20 June 2024

Dear Chair

Thank you for your letter of 22 May regarding the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport and International Relations Committee we attended on 15<sup>th</sup> May.

Please find attached a response to the questions in the Annex.

Yours sincerely,

**Jeremy Miles AS/MS**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi, Ynni a'r Gymraeg  
Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Energy and Welsh Language

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice

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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.

## Annex

*Details of inter-governmental meetings and meetings between officials where Welsh Government Priorities for the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) have been raised and what was discussed.*

Matters related to the TCA are covered formally in the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) on UK-EU Relations. This has met six times since its inaugural meeting in February 2022, most recently on 6 March 2024. We publish Written Statements following these meetings which set out the key issues discussed, but these are not minutes and cannot cover the entirety of discussions. Some issues are also discussed in other IMG meetings, such as the IMG for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.

There is a good deal of preparatory work for IMG meetings undertaken between officials of the four Governments. The FCDO holds fortnightly official-level meetings with the Devolved Governments to look at the range of EU-related issues, including the TCA. These also play a role in preparing for IMG UK-EU Relations meetings and high-level UK-EU meetings, such as the Partnership Council and Trade Specialised Committees. Specific ad hoc official-level meetings between UK Government and the Devolved Governments have also been held to prepare for those UK-EU meetings. These meetings have included discussion of Devolved Governments' and UK Government priorities which the UK Government has then been able to incorporate into UK positions and take to the subsequent meeting with the EU. Official-level meetings between lead UK Government departments and the Devolved Governments are also held to prepare for other UK-EU meetings, such as the Specialised Committees, under the TCA.

Published minutes of meetings of the Partnership Council, Trade Partnership Committee and the Trade Specialised Committee on Services illustrate Welsh Government priorities have been raised through these mechanisms by the UK Government, including our ongoing concern about visas for touring artists.

*Welsh Government priorities for supporting the cultural sector post-Brexit, and difference with other parts of the UK*

The Culture and Creative Industries Inter-Ministerial Group on 2 May was a productive meeting. It was useful to better understand some of the nation specific priorities of Ministers attending and to ensure the UK Secretary of State appreciates the importance of representing all four nations in international discussions, including with the EU. Everyone present recognised the current funding pressures and financial challenges our cultural and creative sectors are experiencing. Issues arising from leaving the EU, such as the impact of visa and border control arrangements and lack of access to Creative Europe, contribute to these challenges in Wales and across the UK.

The Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice launched a consultation on the Welsh Government's Draft Priorities for Culture in Wales<sup>1</sup> on 23 May, running until 4 September. The new Priorities set out our vision for the arts, museums, libraries, archives and historic environment sectors for the next five years. Development of the Priorities has been inclusive and values-led. Unique to Wales, this work has been informed from the outset by our Well-being of Future Generations Act, which puts cultural well-being at the heart of sustainable development in Wales and includes a specific goal to achieve 'A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language'. The consultation period offers a key opportunity for everyone with an interest to provide their opinions and we will consider every response.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gov.wales/draft-priorities-culture-wales-2024>

Despite the difficult financial backdrop, we are excited about the Priorities - there's a real sense of drawing things together and of highlighting the importance of culture. The Priorities fully acknowledge the financial challenges faced by the sector but also look to the future, setting the direction and articulating how we can harness the talent, creativity and collaboration we have within our sector. It is critically important we offer a strategic framework for our sector to support decision making and we are committed to keeping the Priorities under regular review.

*If, during the upcoming implementation review, the opportunity arises to re-visit the arrangements set out in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement, what would the Welsh Government's priorities be?*

We have consistently set our priorities to the UK Government in relation to the TCA. Our short-term priorities have included seeking solutions to immediate issues such as the rules of origin for electric vehicles, trade barriers for live bivalve molluscs and seed potatoes, and visas for touring artists. We continue to raise more strategic issues such as improved energy co-operation and options to re-join EU programmes such as Horizon Europe, Erasmus and Creative Europe.

Our ongoing priorities and those for any discussions with the EU on the TCA, or other agreements outside of the TCA, will be determined by the context of relations between the UK Government and the EU. In turn this will be dependent in part on the one hand on the approach of the new European Parliament after the recent elections and a new European Commission; and on the other by the approach of an incoming UK Government after the UK General Election. Both parties need to be willing to negotiate to effect change.

In general terms, the economic relationship between Wales and the EU is vital to us and should be enhanced by the political relationship between the UK and the EU. The EU remains our closest, and most important, trading partner. We want to ensure our own policy, and the relationship we have with the EU, creates the best environment to allow our businesses to trade with the EU. We have always called for a deeper economic relationship than the one offered by the TCA, but this requires better political co-operation between the UK and the EU.

It should be noted that the review is a review of the implementation of the TCA, rather than the agreement in its entirety, and we need to be realistic about the significance of the changes that could be agreed. Nonetheless, we hope to be closely involved when it is time to formally review the TCA. Subject to developments in the meantime, our starting point for developing our priorities will be those we have long called for:

- The need for a veterinary and plant health (SPS) agreement to minimise administrative burdens and non-tariff barriers to trade
- Addressing issues relating to mobility of workers and provision of services, such as the new barriers faced by touring artists
- The need for improved arrangements on the Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualifications to facilitate economic activity in key service sectors, such as research.
- Exploring options to re-join EU programmes such as Erasmus and Creative Europe.

Further priorities will be developed, as we move closer to the time of the review.

*4. How does the Welsh Government think the issues faced by the cultural sector should be addressed in the short, medium, and long term?*

In the short term, we remain committed to exploring opportunities for the UK to join the Creative Europe programme as a third country, as it has for the Horizon Europe programme. We have also called for the UK Government to negotiate with the EU on more flexible visa arrangements and to consider the other barriers faced by the sector. There are a number of possible solutions, from sectoral exemptions to bilateral agreements, but this first requires a willingness of both parties to acknowledge a shared problem and enter into negotiations. We intend to progress discussions on these matters with the incoming UK Government after the General Election. The Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice will meet with Wales Arts International for an update on these and other Brexit related issues in the coming months.

In the medium term, with clarity established on the approach of the incoming UK Government and its relationship with the EU, the devolved administrations need to work collectively with the UK Government on international issues, engaging relevant partners in Wales from the beginning.

In the longer term, the Welsh Government is reviewing its international strategy and is supporting Wales Arts International to develop a new framework for supporting the arts sector to work internationally, within the framework of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act and the UN global goals.

An Comhchoiste um  
Thurasóireacht, Cultúr, Ealaíona,  
Spórt agus Meáin



Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture,  
Arts, Sport and Media

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Delyth Jewell MS, Chairperson  
Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee  
Welsh Senedd

Email: [SeneddCulture@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCulture@senedd.wales)

20 June 2024

Ref: JCM-I-2042

A Chara,

I write to you on behalf of the Joint Committee on Tourism, Culture, Arts, Sport and Media regarding your correspondence received on 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2023, requesting a submission on 'Culture and the new relationship with the EU'.

The Committee at its meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> June 2024, considered your correspondence and agreed to note it with thanks. The Committee greatly values your ongoing engagement with them and wishes to thank you for same.

The Joint Committee wishes to outline that it notes with great interest the inquiry subject matter detailed and, while it has not examined this topic in detail, looks forward to reading the results of the Senedd Cymru Committee's work in this area.

The Committee wishes to advise you may wish to contact the following organisations in relation to the topic under scrutiny.

- Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and [Media](#)
- [Creative Ireland](#)
- [Arts Council](#)
- National campaign for the [Arts](#).

If you require further information regarding this matter, please contact Laura Pathe, Clerk to the Committee, by telephone at 01 618 4125, or by email at [jcmedia@oireachtas.ie](mailto:jcmedia@oireachtas.ie).

Yours sincerely,

Niamh Smyth T.D., Cathaoirleach



# Agenda Item 3.5

Wales Senedd Members

By Email

JL/H086/WH

24<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Dear Member of the Senedd

Ahead of the debate in the Senedd on 26<sup>th</sup> June. We are seeking your support to address the severe cuts to our heritage and culture in Wales. Prospect union represents over 10,000 members in the heritage, culture and arts sector in the UK.

I would like to provide you with some lived experience from our members on the effect the cuts have had to their work and the impact this has for Wales and future generations.

Before I move to that I would like to make the contextual point on the impact for each institution in having to find the savings in such a short period of time. The 10.5% budget cut announced by Welsh Government just before Christmas 2023 required senior management in each of the organisations to reach difficult decisions on the future structure to fulfil its key functions within a 3 month period.

## **National Library Wales**

**Preventative Conservation.** Of the 8 staff in the Conservation Section, 3 have left or will be leaving in the next few weeks. This is having a huge impact on all aspects of conservation and preventative conservation work with staff affected involved in:

- Making bespoke archival boxes to store and protect items in the collections
- Checking and cleaning new accessions to the Library for mould/pests etc.
- Monitoring the environmental conditions in the building and the condition of collections

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- Emergency response to incidents such as water leaks, damage to items etc.

The two staff who make the boxes (in addition to monitoring and emergency response) have left/will be leaving and will be replaced with 1 member of staff.

The one member of staff who was full time in the quarantine/cleaning room (in addition to monitoring and emergency response) has left. This means that there will only be a staff member to undertake assessment and cleaning of new collections for 2 mornings a week.

If either of these two staff members are sick or on annual leave there will be no cover in these roles.

These functions are core to the Library's operation and to the security and safety of the collections. If items with mould or pests within them are taken into the storage areas due to items not being checked or cleaned properly the results would be catastrophic. This isn't a potential threat, it has already happened at Carmarthenshire Archives and the result was that the service was closed for several years with no public access and a huge cost to repair the damage. Items could be lost forever. In addition there is reputational risk if this were to happen at NLW.

A suggested mitigation measure is that the Library could reject valuable collections if they are deemed to be in bad condition or a risk to the existing collections.

Making boxes may seem like a mundane and unimportant function but archival boxes play an essential role in conserving the collections. They protect items from dust, light and form a microclimate so guarding against fluctuations in temperature and humidity. Bespoke boxes prevent damage to items while being moved and used. They were also essential in minimising the damage to collections during the fire at the Library in 2013 protecting valuable collections from the water used to fight the fire. Without them the losses would have been exponentially worse.

**Enquiries.** We currently have no one dealing with licencing/enquiries for AV material from the Screen and Sound Archive. This is a singleton role as one of the staff left on VS and the other is on maternity leave. We cannot deal with enquiries and licence content leading to a loss of income to the Library and much less exposure of the items in our collections to the public. This is not a function where the enquirer can wait – often the request is to use film that day or the following day. If we cannot make content available to broadcasters Wales history becomes invisible to the public and the stories of the people who made modern Wales – quarrymen, miners, the Greenham Common women becomes hidden.

**Born Digital Archives.** We currently have 3.25 FTE processing and cataloguing archives and manuscripts (down from 4.25 when a vacant role wasn't filled in 2023). We aren't able to keep up with new acquisitions meaning that somewhere in the region of 70-80% of archival material isn't catalogued and goes straight into the backlog. It is invisible to the public.

We are altering the way we work to mitigate this – by providing a brief high level description for all collections so they will be visible but this will be very little help to an inexperienced researcher having to go through 60 boxes based on a 50 word description.

While this is far from ideal for paper archives, when it comes to digital archives this is catastrophic. With digital files you simply cannot put them in a backlog and expect them to still be usable in 20 years time. We currently have 1 staff member FTE on digital archives (down from 2). There is simply not the capacity to transition to processing born digital archives and the 50 word description method is simply not enough as we need to go through the process of virus checking and transferring all files into archival secure formats

**Diversity.** We've made huge progress in decolonising our collections thanks to project funding in archives, art and the Dictionary of Welsh Biography. We've made collections which reflect Welsh society better more visible, made valuable connections with communities and added new content to the collections. This is all done on project funding which is coming to an end or will do so soon. Once these roles are lost we will not only stop making progress, we will fall back as we won't be able to maintain these links and the progress made in diversifying our workforce with motivated and newly qualified young professionals will be lost.

## **National Museum Wales**

Two key areas of concern:

1. Loss of specialist staff
2. Increasing struggle to provide the first class visitor experience expected of a national museum.

Many key curatorial staff found their jobs deleted from the new structure, including those responsible for Ceramics, Agriculture and the Rural Economy, Geology and large sections of the Botany department. In addition, we lost our only Archivist. Their skills and knowledge have been built up over many years, much of it specific to Wales. Not easily replaceable.

Conservation section was badly affected yet again. The Conservation Engineer and Conservator – Small Industry Objects were both initially axed. The Chief Conservator (Social History) fell on her sword in an attempt to save these posts.

The Conservation Engineer officer has left. This individual was the only qualified member of staff in the Museum able to sign off our working machinery as being safe to run. He had received specific training in order to fulfil the Museum's statutory requirement under the Provision and Use of Working Equipment Regulations 1998.

Now, if one of our historic working machines stops working or breaks, we have no means to fix it. This impacts visitor experience and our ability to care for our collections as laid out in our Charter. These items cannot be left for months or years until funding becomes available. They will rust, rot, deteriorate and require enormous investment to get working again.

The Principal Conservator Industry is very concerned that these objects could present a risk to visitors and staff if they break down while being operated. This type of work is a scarce skills and we may not be able to find individuals with the skills and knowledge to work on these items, many of which are over 100 years old.

Many activities concerning the conservation/maintenance/display of large objects require two qualified staff members to ensure safe working. Now only have one to cover 4 sites.

We previously had 5 qualified/experienced officers to manage asbestos related items in the museum. We now have only one qualified staff member (the Principal Industry Conservator). Asbestos is found in over 400 of our geology types and many of our social history and industry collections throughout our museums. We don't have an Asbestos Officer and this now galls on one single staff member to oversee this on top of his 'main' job. Many staff now have multiple responsibilities and roles.

### **Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historic Monuments Wales**

Five people in our organisation took voluntary redundancy, which is about a fifth of our workforce. They were all long-standing members of the RCAHMW team, meaning we lost more than 100 years of experience almost overnight.

We have less capacity to continue survey work. At the moment we can only run a skeleton system of providing good information and advice to the built heritage sector. The limited capacity within the survey team also means that we have less ability to react quickly to heritage at risk – but we are often the only organisation able to record sites and buildings at risk which are not listed or in the listed buildings consent process – and our limited resources mean that we cannot always respond to unexpected events – for example recording a building which has been destroyed by fire or flood.

From the public's perspective, the most notable change to the RCAHMW is the slower service available from the enquiries team, as they have gone from a team of 4 in 2018, to a team of two today. This means that the public reading room is only open for three days a week now, instead of five. Enquirers can also expect to wait five weeks for an initial response now, whereas they used to get an initial response within a week.

Senior management's plan for a long-term solution to this reduction of service is to make more of our records available online, so that people do not have to get in touch with us directly, or visit us in person. Whilst we welcome this plan as a long-term solution, it involves a lot of staff time and resources in the short term, staff time and resources we no longer have.

The two most popular and well used collections we have are the aerial photographs and the site files. We have recently received funding from the Welsh Government to digitise and rehouse part of the aerial photographic collection, but this process takes time, and in the meantime the majority of our aerial photography collections remains insufficiently catalogued and therefore unavailable.

Our aerial photography expert was one of those who took voluntary redundancy, which means we have lost decades of knowledge about the collection, and the remaining staff do not have the capacity to continue making the aerial photographic collection available on request.

Additionally, while we are enthusiastic about making more of our collections available and accessible online, this will require a greater awareness of the copyright implications of individual records. Our copyright expert (who was also our librarian) was one of those members of staff who chose to take voluntary redundancy.

Finally, although any mitigation funding enabling us to recruit members of staff on a short-term basis is welcome and would be put to good use, it is impossible to plan strategically for the long term when those members of staff will have to go by the end of the financial year. Whilst we agree that digitising the collections is the best way to make them accessible in the long term, the work cannot be completed in less than a year.

### **Concluding comments from Prospect Union**

The contribution heritage makes to our society and our economy is immense. The cut in funding in this sector means that it faces a crisis which is especially acute for this year and sadly worryingly chronic for future generations.

Prospect research tells us the heritage sector is a good financial investment returning £5 into the economy for each £1 invested (Prospect High 5 campaign). Cuts to heritage budgets will damage the Welsh economy.

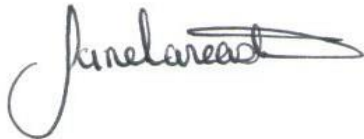
There are becoming accessibility issues to museums and library services and this must be contrary to the spirit of the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act. Poor accessibility to these sites also affects the visitor experience our concern is people will stop visiting and this will damage our economy and equally important the wellbeing of people. The benefits of heritage and provided experiential opportunities to access and engage in our heritage is not to be underestimated. There are good examples of this:

- a study of cultural engagement in Scotland found that people attending museums or libraries were around 20 per cent more likely to report good health
- another study found that the positive mental health aspects of visiting museums and heritage sites was most pronounced in areas of high deprivation
- a comprehensive review of evidence found that “historic places and assets, and interventions associated with them, can have a wide range of beneficial impacts on the physical, mental and social wellbeing of individuals and communities”

- 80 per cent of people agree that heritage sites and projects make their town or city a better place to live. Key benefits included “supporting local economies, making local areas more physically attractive, encouraging local pride, and increasing social cohesion.”

On behalf of Prospect members in the heritage sector we seek your support and call for investment in this sector. Please support this campaign.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jane Lancaster', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jane Lancaster  
Assistant Secretary

[Jane.lancastle@prospect.org.uk](mailto:Jane.lancastle@prospect.org.uk)

Delyth Jewell MS

Chair

Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and  
International Relations Committee

Tŷ Hywel

Cardiff Bay

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26 June 2024

Dear Delyth,

**Petition P-06-1437 Increase, don't cut, funding for the National Library, Amgueddfa Cymru and the Royal Commission**

The Petitions Committee has been considering the above petition, which was considered most recently as part of an evidence session at our meeting on 20 May.

At the meeting Members agreed to write to you to draw attention to the issues raised, which they believe might be of relevance to your Committee's future work, and furthermore to highlight that a debate on the petition will be held today in Plenary.

The Committee is aware of the forthcoming budget scrutiny, and ask that the petition and its content be taken into consideration when scrutiny is undertaken.

Further information about the petition, including related correspondence, is available on our website at: <https://business.senedd.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=43816>

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team at the e-mail address below, or on 0300 200 6454.

Yours sincerely



Jack Sargeant MS

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Dear Secretary of the Senedd Culture Committee

I am writing to you to request that a matter be raised for discussion at the next meeting of the Committee. This concerns the proposal by the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama to close its youth programme (Young RWCMD).

This initiative comes from two current Young RWCMD students: Erin Thomas and David Ingham (both cc'ed). They have prepared a statement in support which is attached.

I would be grateful if you were able to acknowledge receipt and give an indication of when this will be considered, also whether we can provide further information.

The proposal is to close Young RWCMD with effect from this September. So consideration ahead of that, time allowing, would be very much appreciated.

Many thanks in advance for your help with this.

Cofion cynnes

JH

<p><b>Yr Athro John Harrington FLSW</b> <b>Cadeirydd, Cymdeithas Astudiaethau</b> <b>Cymdeithasol-Gyfreithiol</b> <b>Cyfarwyddwr, Ysgol Graddedigion</b> <b>Gwyddorau Cymdeithasol Cymru (PHD</b> <b>ESRC)</b> <b>Athro Cyfraith Iechyd Byd-Eang</b> <b>Ysgol Y Gyfraith a Gwleidyddiaeth</b> <b>Prifysgol Caerdydd</b> <b>CAERDYDD CF10 3AX</b> <b>Ffôn : +44 (0)29 2087 4098</b> <b>Ebost: <a href="mailto:harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk">harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk</a></b> <b>Tudalen: <a href="#">John Harrington - People</a></b> <b>- <a href="#">Cardiff University</a></b></p>	<p><b>Professor John Harrington FLSW</b> <b>Chair, Socio-Legal Studies Association</b> <b>Director Welsh Graduate School for the</b> <b>Social Sciences (ESRC DTP)</b> <b>Professor of Global Health Law</b> <b>School of Law and Politics</b> <b>Cardiff University</b> <b>CARDIFF CF10 3AX</b> <b>Tel: +44 (0)29 2087 4098</b> <b>Email: <a href="mailto:harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk">harringtonj3@cardiff.ac.uk</a></b> <b>Web: <a href="#">John Harrington - People -</a></b> <b><a href="#">Cardiff University</a></b></p>
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**Recent publications:**

- 'The Connection-Friction Axis in Devolved Health Policy and Law-Making in the UK: A Case Study of Organ Donation' (2024) 87 *Modern Law Review* [w R Reed-Berendt, AM Farrell & M Watkins [link](#)]
- 'Border Country: Health Law in a Devolved UK' (2024) 32 *Medical Law Review* 229-247 [w A-R Hampton [link](#)]
- 'Between Empire and Nation: How the State Matters in Global Health' (2023) 43 *Legal Studies* 421-457 [[link](#)]
- 'National Identities in Global Health: Kenya's Vaccine Diplomacy during COVID-19' (2023) 122 *African Affairs* 377-401 [w D Ngira [link](#)]

**Statement to the**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,  
Sport, and International Relations Committee  
Senedd Cymru**

**concerning the proposed**

**Closure of the Royal Welsh College of Music  
and Drama Junior Department**

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

# **Statement on the Closure of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama Junior Department**

## **Introduction**

The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (RWCMD) has recently circulated a proposal to parents and students to close its Junior Department (Young RWCMD). Communications from the College indicate that this was due to financial constraints within the main college, which serves undergraduate and postgraduate students. The recent news has left students and staff with no alternative provisions of the same standard, and Wales with a huge gap in its music education for young people. Without immediate action, what is already the only conservatoire in Wales will also become the only conservatoire in Great Britain without a Junior Department. We ask the Culture Committee of Senedd Cymru to consider this closure and to support us in our efforts to keep open Young RWCMD, an invaluable resource for past and future generations. This statement, drafted and submitted by current Young RWCMD students, Erin Thomas and David Ingham, provides an overview of the role played by the College in nurturing musical and acting talent and in building a music culture in Wales marked by inclusivity and excellence. It offers brief testimony in an appendix from other Young RWCMD students as to the very serious damage which will be done to young people's development and opportunities by its closure.

## **RWCMD's Closure Proposal and its Effects**

The College has proposed the closure of its junior department, which provides the highest level of specialist education in these subjects in Wales each weekend in term time. 112 staff will suffer redundancy and 426 students will immediately lose their lessons. Around 50% of these students are on bursaries, and many of them have their full fees paid. If the department closes these bursaries will no longer be accessible and it is possible accessing any music or drama tuition will become unaffordable for these students. Staff, students and parents were told on 10<sup>th</sup> May that the department was likely to be closing, leaving only seven more teaching weeks before the end of term. These students devote a whole day each week to this education; some have been attending for many years. This is a big commitment, and they care very deeply

about the contribution Young RWCMD makes to their lives. Over the past weeks parents have spoken to us of their worries for their children's wellbeing if the closure goes ahead: many are already experiencing anxiety over the proposals.

### **What Young RWCMD Currently Provides**

The community of like-minded, talented young musicians and actors the Young RWCMD creates for children across Wales (only 34% of students on the advanced level courses are from Cardiff, some travel from Pembrokeshire, Carmarthenshire, even from across the border in Bristol and Somerset) is irreplaceable. Alongside this community, students receive not only one to one tuition from the very highest-level teachers, but also musicianship lessons, chamber music and orchestral tuition, specialist classes in keyboard, theory, and even more on the music side alone. Drama students also get the best possible tuition. But in addition to this the provision is bilingual, and lessons and workshops are delivered by professional musicians and actors who are also able to assist in smoothing the student's transition from junior department to higher education and beyond, into the professions. Many students, thanks to the Young RWCMD's specialist tuition, are already thriving in the music world: a noticeable number of Urdd Eisteddfod winners this year are students at the Junior Conservatoire; many compete and are successful in the renowned BBC Young Musician of the Year; this year, one student has been accepted onto Juilliard's Summer Voice Programme; many students are also members of the National Orchestras and Youth Choirs of Wales and Great Britain. The Junior Departments offer priceless opportunities and experiences to students; some singers were given the opportunity to perform in masterclasses during Cardiff Singer of the World 2023, which was broadcasted globally.

### **Weakness of the College's Proposed Alternative**

The RWCMD suggests that the National Music Service will be there to support these students who will have had their artistic education so abruptly removed, and indeed, many of the music students began their musical lives through the incredible lessons provided by the music services in schools and music centres. Nonetheless, having started from this essential service, students' ability to access full and rich musical education depends on RWCMD as the National Conservatoire. The College enables junior students to take those vital further steps

though its outstanding facilities, e.g. a purpose built concert hall and theatre, soundproofed practice rooms and world-class Steinway pianos throughout the building as well as high quality instruments to loan. The latter scheme, as well as a generous scheme for means-tested scholarships opens up these opportunities to all. As students they benefit from access to other talented students from across Wales (and parts of England) and from the most inspiring, highly qualified and experienced teaching staff. Wales's National Music Service is an extremely valuable scheme, but it cannot provide equivalent opportunities.

## **Funding Comparison with other UK Nations**

Closure of Young RWCMD is a matter of national interest. If the College's plans are realized, Wales's national conservatoire will be the only royal conservatoire in the UK without a junior department. This would leave Welsh children in a disadvantaged position by comparison with their English and Scottish counterparts. The National Music and Dance Scheme in England offers government funded, means-tested bursaries of up to £3000 to everyone attending a junior music college and this is matched in Scotland. There is, however, no parity of funding for the junior department of the RWCMD. It currently receives no government funding. The predicted deficit for the running of the Young RWCMD across the current academic year is £200,000. Access to an equivalent bursary scheme alongside some modest remodelling and a push for slightly higher recruitment figures could make the junior departments a financially sustainable part of the RWCMD.

Currently, the RWCMD are subsidising the junior departments from their reserves, and the prevalent economic difficulties in Higher Education and beyond mean they are unable to continue to do so. It is unfair for the crisis of HE funding and recruitment to impact on the opportunities for under 18s. Wales currently sends many of its young actors and musicians to study at degree level in music and drama colleges throughout the country and internationally. The vast majority have passed through the Young RWCMD. These students are the best advertisement for Wales's world-renowned arts industry. We will lose very many of these talented young people from the professions if this closure is allowed to happen. In addition to those students who move away post 18, many remain in Wales and study at the senior department of the RWCMD. By removing the junior departments there will also be a new issue with recruitment for Wales's national conservatoire.

## **Student Response to the Closure Proposal**

Students affected by this proposed closure have been fighting hard for the continuation of the Young RWCMD, organising numerous events – a ‘play-in’ (where students performed a concert in the foyer) and two demonstrations at the Senedd (where students and alumni played live music) – in many cases, doing so while taking their GCSE and A level exams. Students who are moving on to higher education in September have fortunately been able to capitalise on the opportunities provided by the Young RWCMD throughout their formative years, and they want future generations of Welsh children to be able to do the same. The Young RWCMD sees nearly 100% of its students moving on to higher education, all of whom go on to promote the Welsh arts in their varied places of education and future professions. It is no wonder, that at the time of writing, a Senedd petition to prevent the closure has amassed 10,485 signatures at the time of writing. With the ecosystem of Welsh arts already threatened by cuts to Welsh National Opera, we are at risk of making another huge dent to our national musical heritage and future, if the young people of Wales no longer have access to a junior department at their national conservatoire.

**Erin Thomas, Young RWCMD Current Student (19 years)**  
**David Ingham, Young RWCMD Current Student (18 years)**

**17<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

Document is Restricted

Dear Culture Committee

I am writing to you with regards to the proposed closure of the junior department of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. My Senedd petition calling for its protection recently closed with over 10,000 votes; this is clearly a matter of great concern to the people of Wales and further afield.

You may already know that RWCMD announced the proposed closure in May, to cease all activity from the end of the current term. Our time to fight this is limited, indeed the consultation period has already closed and a final decision has been timetabled to be made by the end of 19th July.

The YRWCMD provides the highest level of tuition in music and drama to 400 students under the age of 18 at weekends during term time. It represents the top of the pyramid of pre-tertiary education in the subjects in Wales, enabling those musicians and actors who may wish to work in the professions to pass from the wonderful lessons given within the National Music Service and equivalent drama teaching into higher education. The National Music Service is already working at capacity and cannot replace what the YRWCMD offers. The building and its facilities are integral to enabling these students to gain the skills they need to progress to the next level of training. There is a top level concert hall and theatre, soundproofed teaching rooms, and the highest quality Steinway pianos in every room. Nothing else in Wales comes close to this. Indeed pupils travel from Pembrokeshire, Camarthenshire, and even from across the border in Somerset and Oxford to access these facilities alongside the best quality teaching, provided by some of the many world class professional musicians and actors who work in and around Cardiff.

I am a violin teacher at the YRWCMD and also a member of the orchestra of Welsh National Opera. Cuts at WNO leave me in no doubt about the financial struggles we are all feeling in the arts at the present time. However I firmly believe that by removing this pathway from entry level music and drama teaching into higher education that Wales will be contributing to the loss of its future as a world leader on the arts stage. This tiny country I have become so proud to call my home over the last decade must now start to fight for the continuation of its reputation as the land of song.

The RWCMD tell us that they can no longer afford to "subsidise" a junior department. I would argue that as a department initially set up for the benefit of Wales's children, that they should have future-proofed its existence by establishing a healthy funding model. The RWCMD junior department's founder tells me the current model (which is jointly funded by fees and the college's reserves) was only ever intended to be temporary. It does seem that Wales struggles to gain the equivalent funding to other junior conservatoires because education is devolved. In England, junior conservatoire music students have access to the Music and Dance Scheme which provides up to £3000 for up to forty students. This is matched in Scotland, but not here in Wales. The Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music provides enormous sums to all the other Royal colleges of music for their junior departments (apparently the Royal Academy of Music in London gets £1million each year) - but not the RWCMD. The deficit for running the YRWCMD in the current year stands at £200,000. I firmly believe that the department could be a sustainable part of the

RWCMDs offering with some modest funding. Why should Welsh children be unable to access this important provision when it is available to their English and Scottish counterparts?

With many thanks to you all for your tireless fight for Welsh culture in these difficult times,

Yours sincerely  
Rebecca Totterdell

Lesley Griffiths MS  
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice  
Welsh Government

28 June 2024

## **Closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama**

Dear Lesley,

The Committee has received correspondence outlining concerns about the plans to close the Junior Conservatoire of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama (Young RWCMD) at the end of this summer term. I write to express our worry about this situation, and to ask whether the Welsh Government has any powers to help prevent this from happening.

The closure will affect a number of specialist teaching staff, as well as the 340 students from across Wales who currently attend its weekend programme of lessons and classes. As Wales's only conservatoire, the access provided by the junior programme to bespoke training, state-of-the-art facilities, diverse performance opportunities, and hands-on experience within the arts is irreplaceable. I am very worried that the loss of this junior programme will create a significant void in music education for some of our most gifted young people. These individuals are the next generation of performers and artists, and their absence will profoundly affect the vibrant music and performance culture and ecology in Wales for many years to come. I am urging the Welsh Government to do all it can to safeguard this provision, and to do so before it is too late.

I acknowledge that your ministerial portfolio is not responsible for the higher education sector – but given the wider impact the closure of this programme will have on the culture sector, I would like to ask the following questions:

1. What discussions have you or your officials had with the College about their decision to close Young RWCMD?

2. Do you have an estimate as to how much funding is required to continue the programme?
3. Have you or your officials, across Welsh Government, had any discussions about providing financial support to the College to continue the programme?

I am sure that you will share my concerns about the closure of this vital programme and how it will affect young people now and in the future. I would be grateful if you could consider this issue as a matter of urgency, given the imminent closure of the programme.

In view of the crossover of remit, I am copying this letter to the Children, Young People and Education Committee, and to the Cabinet Secretary for Education.

I look forward to receiving your response at the earliest available opportunity.

Yours sincerely



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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,  
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,  
Sport, and International Relations  
Committee**

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0300 200 6565

Lynne Neagle MS  
Cabinet Secretary for Education  
Welsh Government

28 June 2024

## **Closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama**

Dear Lynne,

In view of your shared interest in this issue, I enclose a copy of my correspondence to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice. I intend for the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee to consider this matter and related correspondence ahead of the summer recess.

Yours sincerely,



**Delyth Jewell MS  
Committee Chair**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,  
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,  
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Buffy Williams MS

Chair

Children, Young People, and Education Committee

28 June 2024

## **Closure of Junior Conservatoire at Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama**

Dear Buffy,

In view of our committees' shared interest in this issue, I enclose a copy of my correspondence to the Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice. I have also copied this letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education. I intend for the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee to consider this matter and related correspondence ahead of the summer recess.

Yours sincerely,



**Delyth Jewell MS  
Committee Chair**

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



## Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

### Petitions Committee

Peredur Owen Griffiths MS

Chair, Finance Committee

Senedd Cymru

CF99 1SN

## Senedd Cymru

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## Welsh Parliament

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Dyddiad | Date: 26 June 2024

Dear Peredur,

**P-06-1455 Protect the junior departments of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama from closure**

At our meeting on Monday 24 June, the Committee agreed to write highlighting this petition to the Finance Committee, so that it could be given consideration during your deliberations on next year's budget which traditionally takes place at the end of the summer term. It is not the only recent petition seeking to protect funding for culture – the Petitions Committee led a debate on funding to the National Library and Amgueddfa Cymru on 26 June. (P-06-1437 Increase, don't cut, funding for the National Library, Amgueddfa Cymru and the Royal Commission)

I have copied this letter to the Culture Committee for information, as I am aware that they are also following this issue closely.

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team.

Yours Sincerely,



Jack Sargeant

Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

cc Delyth Jewell MS, CHair, Culture Committee

### Annex 1

#### **P-06-1455 Protect the junior departments of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama from closure**

#### **Petitioner:**

Rebecca Totterdell

#### **Petition text:**

# Protect the junior departments of the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama from closure

*The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama has provided a junior music and acting programme to students aged from 4 to 18 for the past 25 years. The school currently sees around 300 talented young people through its doors each weekend, and many of those are on bursaries. It is the only such provision in Wales.*

*Due to financial difficulties the RWCMD is being forced to consult on closing the Young Acting and Young Music programmes at the end of this term.*

*More details*

*If the closure goes ahead, the RWCMD will be the only Royal School of Music without a junior department.*

**10,560 signatures**



Lesley Griffiths AS/MS  
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chyfiawnder  
Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair - Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,  
Sport, and International Relations  
Committee  
Senedd Cymru  
[SeneddCulture@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCulture@senedd.wales)

25 June 2024

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your correspondence of 21 May regarding funding for the Welsh National Opera (WNO).

This is a matter for the Arts Council of Wales (ACW). Under the arm's-length funding principle, ACW's Investment Review is an issue for ACW alone and the Welsh Government does not get involved in any of its funding decisions.

I met with the Chair and Chief Executive of ACW last month to discuss the current position of the arts sectors in Wales, including the Music sector. I also recently met with the WNO, including Chair Yvette Vaughan Jones, Interim General Director Christopher Barron and Executive Director Stephanie Bradley. We discussed the current issues at WNO in detail and I understand that work is underway in the organisation to respond to these reductions in funding.

Whilst WNO has received an overall reduction in its core funding from the ACW of £604k between 2023-24 and 2024-25, it is still receiving the largest multi-year funding offer of all its 81 organisations and opera remains the artform receiving its greatest investment. ACW is in discussions with WNO to identify and agree the activity to be delivered in response to this offer, ensuring planned programming may be protected as much as possible.

ACW is also aware of the financial impact of the reduction in its funding agreement with Arts Council England (ACE) as a result of its review of its National Portfolio organisations in November 2022 and new funding arrangements for 2023-26, however it is not in a position to make good the reduction itself. It also notes ACE has also awarded WNO a further £3.2 million over 3 years in Transform funding, to support WNO in developing a revised business model.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

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[Gohebiaeth.Dawn.Bowden@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Dawn.Bowden@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Dawn.Bowden@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Dawn.Bowden@gov.wales)

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.

The role of ACW is to create an environment where the knowledge, understanding and practice of the arts can flourish and where everybody in Wales can engage with the arts. Its aspiration is a Wales of ambition and fairness where the most exciting arts are created. Arts are integral to the health and wellbeing of the nation, relevant to all communities.

As I reiterated in Plenary, and when I met with the Chair and Chief Executive of WNO in May, I will do all I can to help the organisation navigate this very difficult period. I understand the Welsh National Opera's unique cross border funding arrangement and I intend to write to the Chief Executives of both arts councils to encourage them to maintain an open dialogue on the matter.

While the Welsh Government understands ACW will inevitably have to undertake some difficult decisions when it comes to funding, it noted opera is receiving 71% of the total spend on the music sector for 2024-25.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lesley Griffiths". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Lesley Griffiths AS/MS**

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Ddiwylliant a Chyfiawnder Cymdeithasol  
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice

Maggie Russell, Chair

Dafydd Rhys, Chief Executive Officer

Arts Council of Wales

24 June 2024

## **Update from Arts Council of Wales following general scrutiny**

Dear Maggie and Dafydd,

I write following our **scrutiny session** with you on 6 December 2023. During that meeting you updated the Committee on a number of matters. It was clear at the time that work was ongoing, and that you would be in a better position to provide a more meaningful update later in 2024. In that regard, the Committee was minded to allow enough time for you to complete the work outlined during the session and put in place any required changes before requesting an update. I now seek further information on the matters outlined below.

### **Strategic approach to the arts**

During the evidence session, you told the Committee that your new strategic plan was due to be published at the "end of March" [2024]. The Committee would like an update on the publication of this strategic plan.

The Committee would also welcome a summary of the aims and objectives that will be outlined in this plan, and an explanation of how they differ from the previous iteration of your strategic plan. This should include an outline of your vision for the arts sector in Wales over the next five years.

### **Review of English-language theatre**

During the scrutiny session in December 2023, you told the Committee that you would announce your intention for the review early in the new year. We note, however, that the tender for undertaking the review was only **published** on 6 June 2024. The Committee would like to know:

1. Why was there a delay from your initial timeline for this review?
2. What is the current projected timescale for this review?
3. What are the terms of reference for this review?

### **Investment Review**

It is now six months since Investment Review grant recipients were informed of the outcome of their applications. The Committee would welcome an update from you on any evaluation you have undertaken of the grant application process.

The Committee would also like to know what processes you have in place to monitor the progress of grant recipients during the current Investment Review period.

### **Health of the sector**

In light of the challenging funding settlement, the Committee would welcome your assessment of the current health of the arts sector in Wales. In addition, could you clarify how you are using data you gather to inform your assessment.

I would be grateful for a response to the Committee's questions by no later than 11 July 2024.

Yours sincerely



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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

—  
**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,  
Sport, and International Relations  
Committee**

Lesley Griffiths MS  
Cabinet Secretary for Culture and Social Justice  
Welsh Government

Via email

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24 June 2024

## **Inquiry into the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales**

Dear Lesley,

I write to request an update on the progress and any actions taken since the Welsh Government's **initial response** to our inquiry **report** on the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales.

During our scrutiny of the Welsh Government's Draft Budget for 2024-25, the former Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport, and Tourism told us:

*"We have reduced the budget that was going to be available for next year, but there is still money allocated to progress the national contemporary art gallery."*

In light of this, I would appreciate your response to the following questions:

1. **Timeline and Milestones:** Information on any key milestones achieved and the projected timeline for ongoing and future actions.
2. **Challenges and Adjustments:** Any challenges encountered in the implementation process and adjustments made to address these challenges.
3. **Project Timeline:** Are the capital investment works relating to the dispersed network of galleries still on track to be completed at the end of March 2025?
4. **Business Case and Decision-Making:** We anticipate that the full business case for the National Contemporary Art Gallery has now been submitted to the Welsh Government by the delivery partners, and key decisions around the selection of the anchor site and the

operating model post-2025 have been made. Can you confirm the status of these submissions and decisions?

5. **Revenue Funding:** Please provide an estimate of the ongoing revenue funding required to operate the dispersed network of galleries.
6. **Gallery Space:** Now that the galleries participating in the dispersed network have been determined, please advise how much new public exhibition space is being created by this element of the proposal?
7. **Anchor Site Proposals:** Have the proposals for the anchor site been finalised and can you share the site that has been selected with the Committee? Please also provide provisional cost estimates related to establishing and operating the anchor site.
8. **Brand Development:** Please provide an update on the development of branding for the National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales. Please also share with us what this branding presence will look like and what it is intended to convey.
9. **Environmental Sustainability:** Has a stand-alone strategy, or statement of principles regarding the environmental sustainability of the Gallery been developed that can be shared with the Committee?

Understanding the current status and any developments will be highly beneficial to our ongoing work. We value the Welsh Government's commitment to providing the Committee with updates at key milestones during the project's delivery.

I look forward to receiving your response by 22 July 2024.

Yours sincerely,



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

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

**Public Accounts and Public  
Administration Committee**

Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair of Culture, Communications, Welsh  
Language, Sport, and International Relations  
Committee  
Senedd Cymru

26 June 2024

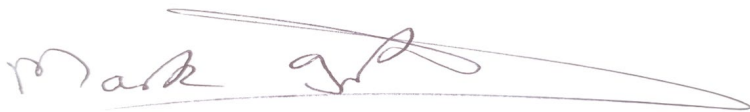
Dear Delyth,

**Scrutiny of Accounts: Amgueddfa Cymru 2021-22**

The Public Accounts and Public Administration Committee has published its report '[Scrutiny of Accounts: Amgueddfa Cymru 2021-22](#)'.

In consideration of the subject of the report, we felt it may be of interest to you and the Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations Committee. As such, we hope that your Committee will give consideration to the report as part of your ongoing and future work. I have attached the report for your information.

Regards,



Mark Isherwood MS  
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.



Delyth Jewell MS  
Chair, Culture, Communications, Welsh Language, Sport, and International Relations  
Committee  
[delyth.jewell@senedd.wales](mailto:delyth.jewell@senedd.wales)

2 July 2024

Dear Delyth,

I am writing in response to your letter of 13 June 2024 about the Rennes Declaration.

The Rennes Declaration was signed last year at the inaugural Celtic Forum. The Declaration is not a formal agreement in the sense of the Memoranda of Understanding and Shared Statements that we have signed with other countries and regions. Instead, it sits within the tradition of ending a formal event - in this case the Celtic Forum - with a declaration. The Declaration was driven by the Brittany President in his capacity as Forum host and was developed, and finalised, during the course of the Forum.

In the spirit of being an informal agreement to look at working more closely together on areas of mutual interest, the Declaration does not contain a formal action plan or commitment to any deliver any specific activity. Instead, it is more about an intention to strengthen cooperation and deepen regional relationships.

As a result of this being a Declaration to work together, rather than a more formal output-driven Agreement, there are no specific priority areas, but rather an agreement on potential areas for collaboration. These include maritime activities; education and training; mobility enhancement; promotion and mutual knowledge of heritage; renewable energy; cultural relations; languages; economic relations in innovation and research; and diaspora.

Following the Celtic Forum, each partner committed to advancing some of this work. Wales is responsible for the cultural relations element, primarily through the Celtic Trail; a proposed heritage trail based on our shared history of the Celtic Saints. We have formed an expert group and network to explore opportunities in cross-border heritage, culture, and tourism.

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[Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Vaughan.Gething@gov.wales)

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.

We have committed to publishing summaries of the cross-cutting international bilateral agreements on the Welsh Government website. An oversight meant that the summary of the Alabama International Friendship Pact was not published, but this was rectified immediately on receipt of your letter.

The Memorandum of Understanding between the governments of Kerala and Wales is solely focussed on Health, delivered by the Health department, and does not meet the criteria of being a cross-cutting bilateral agreement; therefore, a summary will not be published on the International Relations pages of the Welsh Government's website. The web page has been updated to reflect and clarify that the bilateral agreements on this page are those that are delivered across government, coordinated by my International Relations team, rather than single policy agreements.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vaughan Gething". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

**VAUGHAN GETHING**

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# Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) vi of Standing Order 17.42

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# Agenda Item 8

By virtue of paragraph(s) ix of Standing Order 17.42

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