

Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Meeting Venue:

Committee Room 2 – Senedd

Meeting date: 22 January 2020

Meeting time: 09.30

For further information contact:

Martha Da Gama Howells

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

SeneddCWLC@assembly.wales

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

- 2 Discussion on 'Small Screen: Big Debate' and Inquiry into the Devolution of Broadcasting: Public Service Broadcasters**
(9.30–11.00) (Pages 1 – 23)
Rhodri Talfan Davies, Director, BBC Cymru Wales
Phil Henfrey, Head of News and Programmes, ITV Cymru Wales
Magnus Brooke, Director of Policy and Regulatory Affairs, ITV
Owen Evans, Chief Executive, S4C

- 3 Inquiry into live music in Wales**
(11.00 – 12.00) (Pages 24 – 45)
Rhydian Dafydd, Artist, Joy Formidable
Andrew Hunt, Artist, Buffalo Summer
Rhys Carter, Artist, Valhalla Awaits
Gareth Lawrence, Artist, Blackout

- 4 Paper(s) to note**
 - 4.1 Letter from Chair to Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism regarding Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020/21**
(Pages 46 – 48)



4.2 Letter from Chair to Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language regarding Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020/21

(Pages 49 – 50)

4.3 Letter from Chair to Welsh Language Commissioner regarding Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020/21

(Pages 51 – 52)

5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the following business

(12.00)

6 Private Debrief

(12.00–12.10)

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Agenda Item 3

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

Document is Restricted

Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Welsh Government

17 January 2020

Dear Dafydd,

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020/21

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee on 8 January to discuss the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020/21.

Thank you for agreeing to provide the Committee with further detail on the budget and the work of your department.

Fusion

You mentioned that the Fusion scheme has recently been reviewed and that you will be increasing the funding allocation for it. I would be grateful if you could write to the Committee with the outcome of the review and the exact amount of funding for Fusion once this has been decided.

You also said that your department will be prioritising raising participation and attendance at cultural and heritage sites in your portfolio. Again, I would be grateful if you could include figures on current attendance and participation rates and your target figures for the coming year. The Committee would like to follow up on this goal as part of our budget scrutiny for next year's budget.

National Contemporary Art Gallery for Wales & Sports Museum

I understand that you are expecting to receive business cases for both the National Contemporary Art Gallery and the Sports Museum this summer. You also said that you will be seeking additional funding in the supplementary budget to take forward these projects.

Please can you update the Committee on the outcomes of the business cases, your bid for funding and when you expect to announce your decision on the next steps in each case.

Appointment of a Commercial Director to the National Museum of Wales

I would be grateful if you could update the Committee with the progress on appointing a Commercial Director to the National Museum for Wales. It would be helpful if you could set out the reasons why the appointment has not been made sooner. Members noted during the discussion on this topic that combining this post with responsibilities across a greater number of organisations may mean a higher salary can be offered and may attract a greater pool of candidates.

Funding for film and major television projects

Please can you outline the value and nature of the projects which have been supported by Government funding since the Media Investment Budget (MIB) has been paused? Please can you set out how the Welsh Government has made information available to applicants for this funding during the pause of the MIB? Stakeholders have told the Committee informally that there has been a lack of information and publicity about potential Government support for projects.

Can you set out the lessons learnt from the way in which the Media Investment Budget was administered which will be carried over to the proposed funding mechanism for film and television under Creative Wales?

Live music venues

You mentioned that you will be prioritising mechanisms to support live music venues and promoters to reduce the financial risk of staging events. Please can you provide more details about these proposals?

Hyperlocal journalism fund

Please can you provide the Committee with the results of the study of the outcomes, and whether that money has achieved the desired objectives?
Please can you let us know if the fund will continue?

In order to progress the work of the Committee, I would be grateful if you could respond to these questions by 30 January 2020.

Yours sincerely,



Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee

Eluned Morgan AM

Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language

16 January 2020

Dear Eluned,

Welsh Government Draft Budget 2020/21

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee on 8 January to discuss the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020/21.

During the meeting you agreed to provide further details on aspects of the budget.

In response to concerns that the budget for the Welsh language is flat and not keeping pace with inflation you said that there is a mainstreaming of funding across the whole of the Welsh Government which will contribute to the Welsh language. You gave the example of the £45m capital invested in schools last year which you say will directly benefit the Welsh language.

Can you clarify the areas in other Ministerial portfolios where allocations are used to mainstream the Welsh language, and how much funding is provided to achieve this? Can you also tell us how you hold them to account within Government, to ensure that they are focusing allocations on the Welsh Language, where it is being mainstreamed?

Please can you outline how you will demonstrate the return on investment for the Welsh language from this mainstreamed spending? Members are concerned that mainstreaming without providing relevant information could result in a lack of transparency in terms of how we assess the outcomes of Welsh Government spending on the Welsh language.

Further Education

I understand that a further £14m has been allocated to Further Education in general, can you confirm how much of that will be spent on Welsh medium education, including apprenticeships?

Please can you provide us with the current total and the target figure for Welsh medium apprenticeships?

National Centre for Learning Welsh

During the meeting you mentioned the importance of continually seeking value for money and to 'just keep probing are we spending the right money in the right places'.

In Plenary on 8 January you also said:

'I have to say completely clearly that I'm very pleased with the work that the National Centre for Learning Welsh is doing. About 12,000 people are learning through the medium of Welsh. We are giving about £13m to the centre, so it is quite a large proportion of my budget. That's why I just want to scrutinise in more detail how that is being spent.'

Please can you set out your plans for reviewing the funding for the National Centre for Learning Welsh, including the timetable for this work and, if possible, details of the areas where you are considering making savings? Can you tell us why you have identified the National Centre for Learning Welsh as the place where savings need to be made, as compared to other elements of your portfolio? I would be grateful if you could update the Committee with the results of this review when they are available.

Work of the Welsh Commissioner

When we spoke to the Welsh Language Commissioner at our meeting on 18 September 2019, he was asked to comment on the need for research into language usage and said 'There will also be a request to the Government that if they are keen for us to undertake work on specific projects that will not add to our core budget but will be project money.'

You have said that you do not intend to allocate more within the budget for the Welsh Language Commissioner on specific projects or programmes, on a case by case basis. Are you entirely satisfied that the Commissioner will be able to discharge his duties effectively within the budget allocated, and did he make a specific request for more finance in your deliberations with him over the budget?

In order to inform our discussions on the Draft Budget I would be grateful if you could reply by 30 January, with apologies for the short deadline.

Yours sincerely,



Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee

Aled Roberts

Welsh Language Commissioner

14 January 2020

Dear Aled,

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee discussed the Welsh Government's Draft Budget 2020/21 at their meeting on 8 January with the Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language.

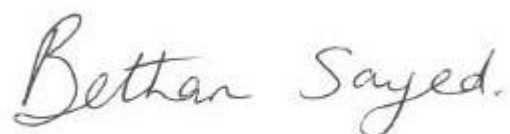
During the meeting we discussed the budget allocations for supporting and promoting the Welsh language in general and for your work in particular.

I would be grateful if you could comment on the Welsh Government's plans for funding Welsh language support, both long term and in the coming year. Members of the Committee were concerned that the mainstreaming of funding for the language across Ministerial portfolios could lead to a lack of transparency in the draft budget, if information on this funding is not made available. I wonder if you have any similar concerns?

The Minister discussed the funding settlement for your office and the memorandum of understanding between your organisation and the Welsh Government designed to reduce duplication. I would be grateful if you could provide views on whether the capital and revenue allocations in the draft budget allow your organisation to fulfil its obligations for 2020-21.

In order to progress our work on the Draft Budget I would be grateful if you could reply by 30 January, with apologies for the short deadline.

Yours sincerely,



Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
Y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu

National Assembly for Wales
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee