

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas MS
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

13 November 2020

Annwyl Dafydd,

I understand you have appointed Dr David Banner MBE; Garffild Lloyd Lewis; Helgard Krause; Siân Gale; Richie Turner and Phil Henfrey as Members of the Non-Executive Board for Creative Wales and Catryn Ramasut as Chair.

I would like to offer the Non-Executive Board my full support and I am sure they will be successful in raising the profile of Wales as a location in which creative industries thrive. However, I have received some inquiries, through the former Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee, Bethan Sayed MS, about the process by which the Board was appointed.

I would be grateful if you could outline where and when these positions were advertised and the selection process used to make the appointments? Those who have approached me have complained that they did not know the appointments were being made and had no information on how to apply for them.

Please can you provide this information by 20 November in order for me to inform our stakeholders who have inquired about this?

Yours sincerely,



Helen Mary Jones

Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee



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Ein cyf/Our ref

Helen Mary Jones MS
Chair
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications
Committee

27 November 2020

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your letter of 13 November regarding Creative Wales' Non-Executive Board.

The purpose of the Creative Wales Board is to set the future direction for supporting and growing the creative industries sector in Wales. As part of the launch of Creative Wales in January 2020, we announced the call for applications to appoint a Chair and Non-Executive Members. These recent public appointments will provide a vital role in developing new ideas, gaining new insights into the industry, and identifying new opportunities for developing the sector.

A selection panel was appointed and chaired by the Director of Culture, Sport and Tourism, which included the Deputy Director, Creative Wales and an Independent Panel Member. As outlined in the application documentation, the essential criteria for the Chair and Board Members were:

- extensive experience of the commercial creative industries in Wales;
- in-depth insight into the issues facing the Welsh creative industries and ideas for growing the sector; and
- an understanding of the government / public sector economic development landscape.

In terms of the timeline for the recruitment process:

- 29th January - Creative Wales Non-Executive Board application process was announced as part of the launch for Creative Wales;
- 3rd February - the advertisement was published via our Public Appointments page www.gov.wales/publicappointments and on the Creative Wales website, social media and circulated to stakeholder contact lists;
- 28th February – closing date for applications. We received 30 applications;
- 23rd March – in response to the Covid-19 crisis the Welsh Government suspended all Appointment campaigns with immediate effect in line with other similar appointment

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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.

exercises. This was prior to sifting so all applicants were notified that we would hold their applications until ready to progress the sift;

- 26th August – panel convened to sift applications;
- 9th September – successful at sift stage – 10 applicants were invited to interview;
- 10th September – unsuccessful at sift stage – 20 letters issued and feedback provided where requested;
- 21st, 22nd and 23rd of September - interviews held;
- 6th October – appointment letters issued;
- 6th October – unsuccessful at interview – letters issued.

I hope that the information provided is sufficient, however, please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism