

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.