



Ein cyf/Our ref DET/412/20

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

26 November 2020

Dear Helen,

Thank you for your letter of 9 November following the Committee's further meeting on 5 November in which you have requested further information on support for live music from Creative Wales and the Supplementary Budget 2020-21. I will respond to your points in the order you have raised them.

### **Support for live music sector from Creative Wales**

*Delays to distributing the Covid-19 support funding allocations – particularly when music and hospitality venues have costs to cover now – may lead to businesses going bust in the interim. Update on the current timescales for getting funding through to venues and whether there is scope to expedite this process.*

Apart from a short delay when officials had to reflect the Chancellor's announcement on the extension of the Job Retention Scheme within each application - in line with the Welsh Government commitment to avoid double funding - offer letters started to issue to music venues during w/c 9 November and we hope to have supported all the prioritised businesses within the next two weeks.

*Any consideration given to sharing staff resource from the Economy team (who have the skills and experience in distributing grant funding) with Creative Wales on a time limited basis to meet the current demands being placed on Creative Wales funding?*

Officials from the Creative Wales team were part of the design and delivery team for the Economic Resilience Fund (ERF) and worked with colleagues in Business Wales to design the process for the Cultural Recovery Fund (CRF) along the same lines as the ERF. A number of officials across the four key areas within the CRF (creative, events, culture and heritage) worked previously on the Phase 1 and 2 of ERF and therefore had experience of the systems in place.

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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.

Due to the high demand for the CRF officials had to build a prioritisation exercise into the fund (something that was not built into ERF) to ensure the funding reached those businesses that were seen as the most important in protecting the creative and cultural infrastructure into next year, in line with the overall aims of the fund.

## **Supplementary Budget 2020-21**

*Sport Wales has an additional £12.5 million allocated to it, however the Sport and Leisure Recovery Fund (which we understood to be new money) was for £14 million. Would it be possible to clarify this discrepancy?*

The £14 million Sport and Leisure Recovery Fund is new money. A sum of £12.5 million has been allocated directly to Sport Wales and £1.5 million is being invested and ring-fenced for sports events through the Cultural Recovery Fund. The presentation in the Supplementary Budget is summarised as follows:

<b>Delivery Area</b>	<b>BEL</b>	<b>£m</b>
Sport Wales	5900	12.5
Support for Local Culture & Sport	6170	1.5
<b>Total</b>		<b>14.0</b>

The CRF has a four main strands covering heritage, creative, culture and events. Support for sport events has always been included in the eligibility for CRF and this additional funding allows us to provide more support for events to meet increased demand.

*We note that Cadw's capital budget has been reduced by £3.7 million – are you able to clarify the reasons for this reduction?*

Cadw's capital programme for this year was always very ambitious, with major projects to be delivered at King's Gate, Caernarfon and at Caerphilly castle, as well as work at a number of other sites. It became clear early in the year that we would not be able to utilise all of the capital budget of £8.7m in this financial year, particularly with the impact of the pandemic. Funding of £3.7m was therefore returned to the centre early in the year, and is being made available next financial year in order to take all of this work forward towards completion.

*The new allocations for culture described in the Supplementary Budget equate to more than the £53 million Cultural Recovery Fund – would it be possible to clarify the reason for this?*

Overall the supplementary budget includes total additional funding of £67m (resource £64m & capital £3m) for the Cultural Recovery Fund £53m and the Sport and Leisure Recovery Fund £14m. As clarified, £1.5m will support sport events and is disclosed in the Local Culture and Sport BEL.

Yours sincerely,



**Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas MS**  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism