

Richard Bellamy

Head of Heritage Lottery Fund, Wales

14 January 2019

Dear Richard,

### **National Broadcast Archive for Wales**

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee has been discussing the National Library of Wales' bid for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a National Broadcast Archive for Wales.

At our meeting on 6 December 2018 we discussed the bid with the President of the National Library of Wales, Rhodri Glyn Thomas, and the National Librarian, Linda Tomos. They told us that they are hoping to sign off the bid at their Board meeting in February. As you know, the bid is dependent on a funding commitment from the Welsh Government of £1 million.

We had the opportunity to discuss the proposal with the Welsh Government's Deputy Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport, Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM on 10 January 2019. He said that there are some issues with the Business Case which have yet to be resolved.

The Committee are keen to ensure that Wales benefits from £5 million of Lottery Funding and secures a valuable resource for the Library. We understand that there is pressure to secure the HLF funding this financial year because the policy on supporting bids of this size is due to change. During that meeting it was suggested that far fewer large grants will be made from April 2019 onwards.

It would help our understanding of this issue, and the nature of the time pressures which are escalating it, if you can confirm your funding policy will be changing in the next financial year.

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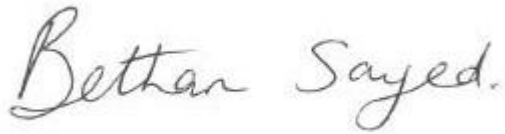
**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru**  
Y Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu

**National Assembly for Wales**  
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

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With apologies for the short deadline, would you be able to respond by 25 January 2019? This is a live issue for our Members who are worried about the risk to this unique project which would allow the people of Wales to access to their social history.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bethan Sayed." The signature is written in a dark ink and is centered below the text "Yours sincerely,".

Bethan Sayed

**Chair of the Committee**

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Bethan Sayed  
Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language & Communications Committee  
National Assembly for Wales

25<sup>th</sup> January 2019

Dear Bethan,

### **National Broadcast Archive for Wales**

Towards the end of January 2019 the Heritage Lottery Fund will begin a new, five-year Strategic Funding Framework that sets out how we will distribute National Lottery good causes money for heritage. In addition, the UK Government has recently published its Tailored Review of our performance. It recommended new ways of working, including simplifying our grant giving processes and operating even more efficiently, getting the most value from National Lottery funding.

This year 2018-2019 is a transitional year and we have begun to simplify our grant programme portfolio ahead of the new Strategic Funding Framework. Last November we announced that Heritage Grants and Heritage Enterprise programmes would close to new applications in mid-August as we prepare to open the new Strategic Funding Framework in late January 2019. These programmes are now closed with the exception of second round applications from applicants holding first round passes as is the case with the award made to the National Library of Wales for the National Broadcast Archive for Wales.

In late January 2019, as we publish our new Strategic Funding Framework, we will open our new funding portfolio. This will be a simpler and more flexible funding offer, with a single open programme for all types of heritage project, with new resources and digital guidance on our website to support applicants. We will continue to offer grants from £3000 to £5million, with proportionate processes and requirements at different levels.

We will strongly encourage applications for projects that will engage a wider range of people with heritage, and also welcome the types of projects we previously supported through targeted programmes, such as those focusing on landscapes or parks, engaging young people, or increasing the resilience of heritage organisations, through the new open programme. We expect strong competition at all levels of grant and will introduce a new Expression of Interest stage for larger grants (over £250,000) to give an early steer on whether you are invited to apply.

The expression of interest has been introduced in response to feedback received as part of our recent consultation. Increased competition, for grant requests between £2million to £5million has resulted in a drop in the number of awards the Heritage Lottery Fund has been able to make at this level. Applicants therefore requested that they received an earlier indication of the likelihood of success of any potential submission for funding before time and resources were committed to the task of putting together a full application.

In response to lower levels of income generated by the National Lottery, the Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund made the decision to protect, as far as possible, the funding budgets dedicated to the Country and regional committees across the UK who make decisions on grants between £3,000 and £2million. The budget for grants between £2million to £5million decided by the UK Board of Trustees therefore has been the level that has seen the greatest increase in competition.

To provide context, when the National Library of Wales was awarded a First Round Pass of £4,751,000 in March 2017 towards the cost of developing a National Broadcast Archive for Wales, the UK annual budget available for awards of this size was £178million. In this financial year 2018 - 2019 the available budget was £85million. Whilst we are committed to retaining the ability to make awards up to £5 million over the course of the next five years of our next Strategic Funding Framework, it will be increasingly challenging for projects to secure that level of funding in the future within the realities of our budgets.

That said, over the next five years, we expect to invest around £1.2 billion in the UK's heritage. The Trustees of the Heritage Lottery Fund are committed to Wales receiving its proportionally fair share of this investment. This is a huge opportunity to build on the past 25 years of achievement, and a great responsibility. Our ambition for the money raised by National Lottery players is to inspire, lead and resource the UK's heritage to create positive and lasting change for people and communities.

Yours sincerely

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

Richard Bellamy  
Pennaeth, Cronfa Dreftadaeth y Loteri Cymru | Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund, Wales