

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