

Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee meeting via Zoom	Rhys Morgan
Meeting date: 12 November 2020	Committee Clerk
Meeting time: 09.30	0300 200 6565
	SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales

1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest

2 Tailored Review of The National Library of Wales

(09.30–10.15)

(Pages 1 – 14)

Pedr ap Llywd, Chief Executive & National Librarian, National Library of Wales

David Michael, Deputy Chief Executive, National Library of Wales

Break

(10.15–10.30)

3 Tailored Review of The National Library of Wales

(10.30–11.15)

Dafydd Elis–Thomas MS, Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism,
Welsh Government

Jason Thomas, Director, Culture, Sport and Tourism, Welsh Government

Steffan Roberts, Deputy Director, Welsh Government

Break

(11.15–11.30)



4 Support for news media

(11.30–12.30)

(Pages 15 – 25)

Rachel Howells

Emma Meese, School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University

Karen Wahl-Jorgensen, School of Journalism, Media and Culture, Cardiff University

Ifan Morgan Jones, School of Music and Media, Bangor University

Nick Powell, National Union of Journalists

5 Paper(s) to note

5.1 Welsh Government response to the short report on the impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on the Creative Industries

(Pages 26 – 30)

5.2 Welsh Government response to the short report on the Impact of the COVID-19 on journalism and local media

(Pages 31 – 36)

5.3 Correspondence with the Welsh Government on music teaching

(Pages 37 – 43)

5.4 Letter from the FDA on funding for the National Museum Wales and The National Library of Wales

(Pages 44 – 45)

6 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting

7 Private debrief

(12.30–12.40)

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Agenda Item 5.1

Written Response by the Welsh Government to the report of the Culture, Welsh Language & Communications Committee entitled Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on the Creative Industries

The Welsh Government welcomes the findings of the report and offers the following response to the nine recommendations contained within.

Recommendation 1

The Welsh Government should set out how it will prioritise the additional funding announced by the UK Government as a matter of urgency. The Welsh Government should also commit to spending the whole amount, £59 million, on arts, culture and heritage.

Response: Accept

On 30 July 2020 the Welsh Government announced a £53 million Cultural Recovery Fund to help support and sustain the sector due to the ongoing challenges resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. The fund is intended to provide essential support to theatres, music venues, heritage sites, museums, galleries, events and festivals, independent cinemas who have all seen a dramatic loss of revenue due to the pandemic. Funding will support both organisations and individuals in the sector.

The support has three complementary elements; funding, to protect sustainable organisations and as many jobs in the culture sector as possible, a cultural contract, to use the funding to drive transformational change and support new ways of working and a roadmap to re-opening, to ensure support is aligned to safe reopening at the earliest opportunity.

The funding will be delivered through three strands:

- Welsh Government funding to support organisations;
- Arts Council of Wales funding to support organisations;
- Support for individuals.

The intention is to open the Arts Council of Wales element of the fund mid-August and the Welsh Government elements for applications in mid-September.

Taken alongside the £18m portfolio funding package announced in early April to support the emergency response, the Welsh Government's funding to the culture sector this year has gone beyond the consequential received. Further support has also been provided across the sector through the Welsh Government's Economic Resilience Fund.

Financial implications: An additional allocation of £53m in 2020-21 comprising £50m revenue and £3m capital will support the Wales Cultural Recovery Fund.

Recommendation 2

The Welsh Government should work with the UK Government to explore ways of financially supporting workers in the creative industries who, as lockdown eases, are still not able to return to work safely.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government has earmarked £7m within the Wales Cultural Recovery Fund to support individuals working in the cultural and creative industries impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Welsh Government recognises the challenges associated with resuming activity in the creative industries in light of the measures taken to limit the spread of the virus, and the significant impact this is having on the ability of individuals and freelancers in the sector to find work and generate an income. The fund will provide critical support to these individuals, who are an essential part of the creative industries landscape in Wales.

The financial support announced is being complemented by the development of a roadmap to re-opening. This will provide further clarity on the timeline for easing restrictions across the creative industries and will ensure support is aligned to resuming activity safely at the earliest opportunity.

The Welsh Government continues to engage with UK Government to discuss support for workers in the creative industries in Wales.

Financial implications: Revenue funding of £7m in 2020-21 is available to support individuals.

Recommendation 3

The Welsh Government should respond to the Ofcom consultation on the future of public service broadcasting to advocate for sufficient funding to ensure public service broadcasters can continue to provide Wales-originated programmes and distinctly Welsh content.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government will respond to the Ofcom consultation on the future of public service broadcasting.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 4

The Welsh Government should ensure their guidance on the precautions needed to restart filming and production activity is published as a matter of urgency.

Response: Accept

Guidance to support a restart to filming and publishing activity was published on 16 June 2020 as part of the Welsh Government's COVID-19 guidance for the creative industries. This is a live document, and is updated in line with changes to the regulations in Wales and as further guidance and advice from industry is made available. A frequently asked questions document has been produced alongside the guidance, to provide further detail on specific questions raised by the sector.

The Creative Wales team worked with stakeholders in developing the guidance document, including through the COVID-19 Screen Stakeholder Support Group, which includes representation from public service broadcasters, independent production companies and unions. Creative Wales continues to engage with stakeholders to ensure the guidance meets the ongoing needs of the sector as restrictions ease.

The guidance signposts to industry advice and best practice, including the industry guidelines for safe TV production produced by broadcasters, BFC industry-wide safety protocols and the Close Contact Cohort guidance published by the BBC. Officials from Creative Wales have been engaged in the development of industry guidelines developed by BFC and broadcasters, both through involvement with relevant working groups and through direct discussions.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 5

The Welsh Government should update the Committee on any discussions led by Creative Wales on the availability of production insurance.

Response: Accept

On July 29 2020, the UK Government announced a £500 million Film and TV Production Restart Scheme, to provide much needed production insurance support to the industry. This forms part of their wider Culture Recovery Fund. Creative Wales held numerous discussions with the UK Government Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) prior to this announcement, highlighting the importance of this support to the sector in Wales. Creative Wales will continue to work with DCMS to support applications from Wales, including facilitating a Q&A session between DCMS and our COVID-19 screen stakeholder group prior to launch of the application process planned for late August / early September.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 6

The Welsh Government should initiate talks with the Treasury and the insurance industry to seek guarantees which will give insurance providers the confidence they need to make production insurance available.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government has responded positively to the Film and TV Production Restart Scheme announcement. Key stakeholders in Wales, including PACT, have also welcomed the announcement. An initial assessment of the information currently available on the scheme indicates that the terms and criteria set out for applicants would service the demand and meet the needs of eligible Welsh applicants. Creative Wales will work closely with applicants and DCMS to ensure those in most need in Wales have the best possible chance of receiving support through the scheme.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 7

The Welsh Government should discuss the provision of live events insurance in its talks with the Treasury and the insurance industry.

Response: Accept

Event Wales to discuss and agree approach with Industry Advisory Group as part of wider discussions on the future outlook for the events sector – including a potential phased re-opening – and raise further with the UK Government.

Financial implications: No financial implications – if this is about UK Government support.

Recommendation 8

The Welsh Government should require funding recipients of Creative Wales to demonstrate their commitment to increasing the diversity of their workforce.

Response: Accept

Raising standards and promoting diversity and equality across the creative industries has been identified as a key priority for Creative Wales. Our vision for the sector is one in which everyone, regardless of circumstances or background, can access opportunities and thrive; a diverse industry where work is fair and workplaces are inclusive. Our intention is to drive change, and to work in collaboration with industry to support inclusion, fair pay and fair working practices, aligned to wider Welsh Government ambitions for fair work in Wales. Creative Wales will shortly be undertaking an in-depth mapping of the screen sector across Wales which will provide data on existing diversity within the sector and examine the current barriers to entry for under-represented groups. We are also working with training providers to look at ways we can improve the recruitment pipeline from under-represented groups.

Businesses receiving direct financial support from Creative Wales are required to enter into an Economic Contract, and to demonstrate a commitment its four key pillars, including fair work and the promotion of health, mental health, skills and learning in the workplace. In addition, we are reviewing our production funding to consider how our offer can be adapted to require funding recipients to sign up to a set of diversity standards as part of any award.

The Cultural Resilience Fund will also support delivery of our ambitions for diversity in the creative industries workforce, and presents a unique opportunity to deliver a step change with the introduction of a cultural contract that has fair work, pay and sustainability at its heart.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 9

The Welsh Government should ensure that the principle of stakeholder consultation is embedded in the ways of working of Creative Wales.

Response: Accept

The success of the creative industries in Wales has been built on a foundation of successful partnership working, and the Welsh Government recognises nurturing successful partnerships and supporting collaborative working will be an essential component for future growth. Creative Wales is therefore committed to engaging and working in genuine partnership with a broad range of stakeholders, from industry representatives to trade unions, and the Creative Wales operational structure includes a dedicated marketing and

communications function that will lead on stakeholder engagement and support an effective and co-ordinated approach to working with our partners.

Stakeholder groups have been established for each of our priority sub-sectors to inform our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure alignment of support interventions and a co-ordinated approach to recovery. Our intention is to retain this structure so that we can continue to engage with key stakeholders over coming weeks and months to assess the ongoing relevance of our approach, identify opportunities to further support, share ideas and seek feedback as we shift our focus to recovery. This structure will also be used to inform the development of our sub-sector action plans.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

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

Agenda Item 5.2

Written Response by the Welsh Government to the report of the Culture, Welsh Language & Communications Committee entitled Impact of the COVID-19 Outbreak on Journalism and Local Media

The Welsh Government welcomes the findings of the report and offers the following response to the nine recommendations contained within.

Recommendation 1

The Welsh Government should urge Ofcom to ensure that broadcasters maintain accuracy and impartiality by reporting on all four UK nations equally, as a matter of course, but especially when it comes to their approach to public health.

Response: Accept

We recognise the vital importance of accurate and impartial reporting in Wales, in particular in light of the COVID-19 pandemic when it is essential that people are able to access up to date information on the measures introduced by government to protect public health and limit the spread of the virus. Our broadcasters play a crucial role in this, informing people across Wales and providing regular updates on how these measures are being applied within communities.

Whilst we do not have any regulatory control over what is broadcast by broadcasters, given the non-devolved nature of broadcasting with BBC independent of government, Welsh Ministers and officials have regular meetings with the public service broadcasters. This engagement has continued throughout the COVID-19 crisis.

Reporting of information on the COVID-19 situation and the measures introduced to limit the spread of the virus is complex and at times confusing. Spokespeople for the UK Government do not always make it clear that their decisions apply only to England. We work closely with Ofcom in Wales on issues related to communication services in Wales and have raised the issue of the accuracy of reporting with both officers in Ofcom and the Ofcom Wales Board member. The matter has been discussed at Ofcom Advisory Committee for Wales meetings. We continue to remind Ofcom of its commitment to make provision for the UK's nations.

Since the outbreak of the pandemic, Ofcom has written to broadcasters reminding them of the need to comply with the Broadcasting Code. This letter included reference to public health advice on the Coronavirus and the need for broadcasters to ensure that viewers and listeners are made aware in an appropriate manner of the different approaches taken by public authorities in England, Wales, Scotland and/or Northern Ireland in areas such as social distancing requirements.

The Welsh Government will continue to engage with Ofcom to ensure accuracy and impartiality in broadcasting and to ensure information on the position and approach adopted by Wales is adequately reflected in broadcaster reporting.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 2

The Welsh Government should provide the Committee with an assessment of the quality of information dissemination about COVID-19 during the pandemic.

Response: Accept

The clear and timely dissemination of public health messaging to the people of Wales has been, and remains, critical during the coronavirus pandemic. From the outset, the Welsh Government has worked closely with partners across the public sector, the media, and others in order to maximise the impact and reach of these messages. This has been particularly important where policy in Wales has diverged from the rest of the UK, and to drive compliance with the restrictions designed to minimise the spread of the virus.

We have also used our own social media channels and website to communicate directly with the people of Wales. The GOV.WALES site has seen hundreds of thousands of views a day, and is a clear and comprehensive source of authoritative information. Ministers have undertaken several Facebook Live sessions to answer questions from the public, alongside high quality digital content to drive public behaviour. Our social media channels have seen significant increases in followers:

Facebook Page followers from 1 March to 10 October:

Llywodraeth Cymru: +2,415 (up from 1,383)

Welsh Government: +125,985 (up from 13,680)

Twitter followers from 1 March to 10 October:

Llywodraeth Cymru: +1,547 (up from 7,725)

Welsh Government: +44,692 (up from 89,746)

The Welsh media play a crucial role in disseminating public health information, and we have worked with them in an open, transparent and accessible way to ensure this is as effective as possible. Ministers, the Chief Medical Officer and the Chief Executive of NHS Wales have undertaken well over 100 live televised press conferences to answer questions from journalists. These have attracted significant audiences, and are also streamed live and in full on our social media channels. The First Minister's address to the nation last month drew more than 500,000 viewers on BBC1 Wales.

Through our Keep Wales Safe campaign, we have provided simple, concise messages on preventative behaviours, and encouraged compliance with a sense of common purpose. We have also worked alongside the UK Government on reinforcing common health messages and actions where policy in Wales is aligned with that in England. The campaign has had multiple strands, covering the shielded population, reassurance messages for pupils, parents and teachers, and the use of face coverings, for example.

We have also co-ordinated public health communications across the Welsh public sector throughout the pandemic to support our partners in communicating on a national, regional and local basis. This has helped to ensure consistency of messaging and maximised reach and impact through their channels.

The approach set out above will continue for the duration of the pandemic.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 3

The Welsh Government should urge the UK Government to fill the gap of up to £8.5 million in BBC Cymru Wales' funding.

Response: Reject

The Welsh Government recognises the independence of the BBC from government, with BBC Cymru Wales funded by the BBC through the TV licence fee. It is important that BBC Cymru Wales continues to be funded by the BBC centrally from its overall budget, to protect that independence.

The Welsh Government has consistently called for sufficient funding from the BBC centrally for BBC Cymru Wales for news and non-news programming in both Welsh and English. We are aware of the significant financial challenges being faced by the BBC and the impact of this on BBC Cymru Wales funding. We are naturally concerned about the effect of this on BBC Cymru Wales' services and operations in Wales.

It is essential that BBC Cymru Wales is adequately funded so that it can continue to serve audiences and play a key role in supporting the creative industries in Wales. The current BBC Charter gives the BBC a much stronger public purpose to reflect, represent and serve the diverse communities of Wales. We therefore expect more and better content and programming made for Wales, about Wales – and in Wales – across the BBC's services. To deliver this appropriate funding is required. We have consistently stressed that any new money promised for Wales has to be genuinely additional.

We will continue to press for sufficient funding for BBC Cymru Wales from the BBC centrally, in line with its independence of government, funded through the TV licence fee.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 4

The Welsh Government should urge the UK Government to continue the Job Retention Scheme beyond October 2020 on a sectoral basis in recognition of the fact that the majority of news journalism businesses will not be able to return to pre-pandemic levels of economic activity for some time to come.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government has been supportive of the Job Retention Scheme since its launch. The Scheme has had a key role in helping to protect jobs during the crisis. We made clear at the start of the pandemic that a major UK Government intervention of this nature was needed as only the UK Government has the fiscal firepower to deliver protection at this scale. The Minister for Economy, Transport & North Wales and officials have regularly pressed the issue of extending the Job Retention Scheme to those sectors still in need of assistance with HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Our Social Partnership approach in Wales enables us to hear the concerns of business and unions and both have consistently called for an extension to the Job Retention Scheme, especially for those sectors most impacted by the pandemic.

The enhancement of the Job Support Scheme announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 9 October will be welcome news to businesses and employees affected by local restrictions. We have been urging UK Government Ministers to review the Job Support Scheme to ensure it is operating effectively and as many workers as possible benefit. We look forward to contributing to the review of the scheme in January 2021.

We continue to raise the need for support for employees in meetings with UK Government recognising that the Welsh Government does not have the necessary resources to replicate the scale of this type of intervention.

Financial implications: No financial implications

Recommendation 5

The Welsh Government should encourage businesses to make use of the UK Government's Job Retention Scheme while they explore longer term solutions instead of making employees redundant.

Response: Accept

The Welsh Government's Business Wales service actively promotes Covid-19 business support advice, information and schemes via the Business Wales website <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-advice/> and associated social media channels, as well as via the Business Wales Helpline and Business Wales advisory staff. This has included signposting to UK Government schemes such as the Job Retention Scheme.

Dedicated advice is available for individuals and businesses, including business planning, reviews and remodelling and support to access financial support to support sustainability and developing new business models. In addition, a series of live webinars have been developed to address challenges around accessing finance, managing cash flow, digital capability and diversification, managing change to employment.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 6

The Welsh Government should lead conversations with representatives from the sector to gain a clearer understanding of the immediate support required and explore solutions other than redundancies.

Response: Accept

We note the challenges being faced by the media sector in Wales, many of which have been exacerbated by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Welsh Government is working with key stakeholders in Wales to explore options to provide further support the sector.

Financial implications: No financial implications.

Recommendation 7

The Welsh Government should urgently identify the changes necessary to enable statutory notices to be published by hyperlocal and online providers.

Response: Accept

As part of the Welsh Government's response to the Public Accounts Committee report on the Effectiveness of Local Planning Authorities in Wales, it has been accepted that significant change is required to the way in which engagement takes place in the planning system to reflect community aspirations and new communication methods.

Across both planning and transport we are concerned that the effectiveness of newspaper advertisements is decreasing as readership figures decline.

Planning Directorate is developing a programme of projects to look at engagement in planning system and one area that has already been identified for investigation is the advertising of

statutory notices. Local Planning Authorities have raised concern that this form of advertising is expensive and does not provide value.

While we wish to increase the use of digital platforms for hosting statutory notices we are aware we need to continue to engage with those who do not have online access. We are considering a joint review of statutory notices across both planning and transport to consider how best to reach the necessary audiences. Meanwhile, we will be looking at how a wider audience can be reached in respect through a variety of engagement methods. One of the options that will be considered is a broader range of publications that can be used to advertise statutory notices to include hyperlocal and online providers.

Financial implications: No additional financial implications.

Recommendation 8

The Welsh Government should provide financial support for community radio stations that are owned, licensed and operating in Wales.

Response: Accept

Community radio stations play an essential role in ensuring that people in Wales have access to vital local news and information. This has been crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic when it is essential that people are able to access up to date information on what is going on in their local communities.

We are providing support to community radio stations through a range of business support mechanisms. Business Wales and Social Business Wales provides access for individuals, SMEs and social enterprises from all sectors across Wales, to a wide range of business support, advice and information. This includes access to financial support, such as UK Government Start-up Loans or loan and equity funding from the Development Bank of Wales. The Business Wales website has a Business Finance Zone offering specialised advice and information to help people access finance as well as a Finance Locator <https://businesswales.gov.wales/businessfinance/>

Community radio stations have been supported during the pandemic through the Welsh Government Economic Resilience Fund and through the third sector the Community Facilities Programme.

In addition to Welsh Government support, we will work with Ofcom in Wales to ensure as many eligible community radio stations as possible benefit from their Community Radio Fund and to identify and address any barriers to Welsh community radio stations accessing this support.

Financial implications: No additional financial implications.

Recommendation 9

The Welsh Government should take affirmative action to encourage new entrants to the market and support innovative approaches to the provision of news journalism in Wales.

Response: Accept

Creative Wales will explore options to encourage new entrants to the market. This will include exploring opportunities to work with key stakeholders such as Clwstwr, Universities, relevant news organisations and stakeholders in Wales to encourage innovation and new entrants in the journalism, news and hyperlocal sector.

Innovation in news and journalism is a key component of the Clwstwr project being delivered in the Cardiff City Region between 2018 and 2023. The project, match funded by Creative Wales, seeks to identify and support new developments in the sector, and has funded a number of projects across Wales.

We will also consider how we can use skills interventions to support this work, such as the Creative Careers Programme Cymru programme, funded by Creative Wales which is designed to help inform young people and new entrants of the breadth of roles that exist in the Creative Industries.

General support is also available, and the Welsh Government proactively supports entrepreneurship through policies and programmes aimed at encouraging the creation, growth and sustainable development of micro businesses and SMEs. The Welsh Government continues to offer dedicated start-up advice and support through Business Wales and Social Business Wales, in addition to financial support that may be available such as Start-up Loans.

Financial implications: No additional financial implications.

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

Kirsty Williams MS
Minister for Education
Welsh Government

Dyddiad | Date: 9 October 2020

Pwnc | Subject: **Music Education**

Dear Kirsty,

At the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee meeting on 1 October, Members considered the letter to you regarding music education sent jointly by Tŷ Cerdd, Music Mark, Anthem and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

The letter sets out concerns that ‘music service provision has been eroded over many years’ which means that ‘there is significant inequity of access to musical learning across Wales’.

The signatories to the letter are calling for a national plan for music education and further interim funding, both of which they say were recommended by the stakeholder group you established in response to the Committee’s report on music education – ‘Hitting the Right Note’. Please can you set out what actions you have taken in response to the recommendations of the stakeholder group you set up two years ago? Can you also provide an update on the delivery of the recommendations in ‘Hitting the Right Note’ which you accepted? I have attached them as an Annex to this letter.

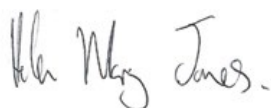
The authors of the letter are advocating a similar structure in Wales to the ‘Music Hubs’ in England, which they say ‘achieve considerable impact with this modest funding through partnership working’. Please can you tell us if you have considered this delivery model? If so, please can you set out why you decided not to pursue something similar in Wales?

I note that on 15 September 2020, the Welsh Government published [Rehearsing, performing and taking part in the performing arts: guidance for a phased return](#). Section 3.22 of the guidance provides information on teaching music. However, the guidance is described as ‘a framework for decision-making rather than a set of rules to follow.’ The guidance only applies to ‘activities permitted by government regulations’ and states that ‘resuming activity can only be possible within the context of the COVID-19 regulations that apply at the time.’



The letter, which was written the week after the guidance was issued, states 'it is essential that clear guidance is produced to clarify how music education can resume in Wales during the ongoing pandemic'. It appears that stakeholders would value greater detail on what activities are permitted in schools and homes. Please can you let us know if you are planning on issuing clear and specific guidance for the delivery of music education in schools and homes?

Yours sincerely,



Helen Mary Jones

Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee



Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Helen Mary Jones MS
Chair
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
Welsh Parliament
Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

3 November 2020

Dear Helen

Thank you for your letter of 9 October raising a number of issues regarding music education, particularly in the context of a recent joint letter from Tŷ Cerdd, Music Mark, Anthem and the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama.

I would like to emphasise at the outset that I am absolutely committed to supporting music education and to enabling schools to continue to offer such provision, which is an important and enriching part of our culture and heritage. I also recognise the important position of music both within the current curriculum and the new Curriculum for Wales, to be introduced from 2022. The guidance for the new curriculum sets out the importance of delivering a broad and balanced education, highlighting our commitment to ensuring that learners access a wide range of experiences within schools, including music and the Arts.

I am aware that there is a range of highly complex issues relating to music education and music services. My officials had commenced work on assessing these areas, in the context of the Committee's 'Hitting the Right Note' report, the subsequent Music Services Feasibility Study report which I commissioned, and the Music Services Stakeholder Consultation Group that was set up following publication of the study report. I have included an update on the position on relevant recommendations of the 'Hitting the Right Note' report, at Annex 1 to this letter.

I am sure you will appreciate that the education response to the Covid-19 pandemic has been the priority for my Department over recent months and work linked to the Stakeholder Group was therefore paused for a period. However, my officials plan to reconvene a meeting of the Group in the coming months to review the way forward on this important area of work. This will include consideration of the feasibility study report's strong theme of introducing a National Plan for Music Education, with the aim of providing a framework to set out quality standards, progression routes and equality of provision. If such a national

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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.

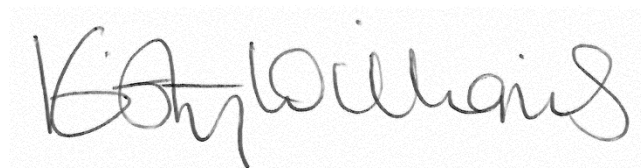
plan were to be introduced, it would need to work in parallel with the requirements of the new curriculum.

On the issue you raise about the Music Hubs in England, the feasibility study report looked at this area and while noting that this approach has some benefits, it also highlighted a number of issues. These included the conflict of interest in the continuing role of local authorities which operate and run hubs while also commissioning services from themselves as well as from alternative suppliers. Other issues included the level of engagement and support for continuity in learning and teaching, which is essential in creating equitable pathways for the progression of particularly talented learners.

Turning to your point on music education within the ongoing COVID-19 situation, we have updated our [operational guidance for schools](#). The learning guidance makes clear the importance of a broad and balanced curriculum throughout this period. However, I fully appreciate the issue you raise about the need for clarity regarding music activities in the context of the pandemic and my officials are developing further guidance documentation such as Frequently Asked Questions which will include specific reference to the teaching of music, among several other subject areas. I should also note that school music services have restarted in some areas following the temporary withdrawal due to Covid-19. For example, Cardiff Council has been working closely with Cardiff County and Vale of Glamorgan Music Service to make preparations for the safe return of music tuition in schools. A number of health and safety measures are now in place in line with Welsh Government guidance to keep children, tutors and schools safe, while minimising the risk of Covid-19 spread. These measures include adapting the way lessons are delivered, new guidance for tutors and putting social distancing and hygiene processes in place.

We are, of course, continuing to work closely with strategic partners to ensure that schools are able to continue to provide music activities in a safe way and that appropriate support and guidance is provided

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kirsty Williams', is centered on the page. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kirsty Williams AS/MS
Y Gweinidog Addysg
Minister for Education

'HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE' REPORT – UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

The Welsh Government should transfer responsibility for the delivery of music services to an arms-length, national body with a distinct regional delivery mechanism and footprint. The national body should be core funded by the Welsh Government and should be made responsible for ensuring that both pupils and staff working within the music education sector, regardless of their location or social background, are afforded equitable opportunities. The Welsh Government should ensure the responsible body is provided with any additional funding necessary in order to maintain equality of access on an all Wales level.

This recommendation is being considered as part of the forward work of the Music Services Stakeholder Consultation Group. When I met with Committee last January, I expressed my concerns regarding the disadvantages of introducing an additional body into the system. My priority is to ensure that any resource goes directly into services in schools. The Stakeholder Group strongly agreed with this position when it met and was keen that funding support is directed to front line services.

Recommendation 3

We recommend that the Welsh Government encourages local authorities to review terms and conditions of music service staff to ensure that they are as consistent as possible as a matter of urgency.

This recommendation was actioned, with a letter sent to local authorities on this issue.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that, subject to the points made above relating to progression up the Welsh Government's pyramid for music education, the Welsh Government ensures there is adequate funding, support and advice available for those seeking to set up viable, alternative models of music service delivery, provided that any model of support is compliant with the Welsh Government's ethical standpoint relating to the terms and conditions of staff.

The music services feasibility study was tasked with considering alternative models of music services and identifying the needs and demands for such services. The report considered a number of models, including the co-operative model, private and charitable business. Of note was the high level of job satisfaction and retention for music staff at the co-operative model. Free advice and support are available from Social Business Wales, which is part of the Welsh Government's business support network. This recommendation is being further considered as part of the forward work of the Music Services Stakeholder Consultation Group.

Recommendation 7

We recommend that the Welsh Government and the Welsh Local Government Association jointly consider as a matter of urgency how implementation of the recommendations of the task and finish group report by local authorities in Wales can be accelerated, with a view to

reporting to the Committee on progress made within six months of the publication of this report.

This recommendation was actioned. A [final progress report](#) on the recommendations was published in April 2019.

Recommendation 9

We recommend that the Welsh Government significantly increases the funding made available to local authorities for the purchasing of musical instruments and distributes it on a needs basis. This should be done as a matter of urgency and should be aimed at improving the situation in the short term, to cover the period before a national body is fully able to take responsibility for music services.

This recommendation was actioned. Funding of £1.5m was made available to local authorities in both 2018-19 and 2019-20, an element of which was available for the purchase of instruments. The position on future funding is currently under review, taken into account also considerations on the re-focusing of education funding support in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recommendation 10

We recommend that the Welsh Government remit Estyn to undertake a thematic review of local authority music services focusing on practical steps to ensure consistency of opportunity across Wales.

This recommendation is being considered as part of the forward work of the Music Services Stakeholder Consultation Group (it has not been possible to include this area within the Estyn remit work, to date, due to the wide range of other areas already incorporated).

Recommendation 11

We recommend that the Welsh Government promotes the use of Pupil Development Grant funding for music education.

This recommendation was actioned – the Pupil Development Grant has been promoted, in this context.

Recommendation 13

We recommend that NYAW puts mechanisms and sufficient funding in place in order to ensure every pupil, who wishes to progress toward excellence, has the resource to do so.

This recommendation was actioned – NYAW has put in place appropriate mechanisms and received funding of £190,000 from Welsh Government in 2019-20 for support for music ensembles. The general principle of equality of opportunity for all children was also a key theme of the Music Services Feasibility Study report.

Recommendation 14

We recommend that the Welsh Government introduces ways of monitoring the composition of the national ensembles to ensure that they are as inclusive of all social groups as possible. Any imbalances in their composition should be addressed as a matter of urgency. The data should be reviewed regularly and the appropriate action taken.

This recommendation was actioned - NYAW monitors the composition of ensembles.

Recommendation 15

We recommend that the Cabinet Secretary takes steps to ensure that there is greater clarity of purpose between the Endowment Fund and NYAW in the charitable funding they are seeking, to avoid unnecessary duplication of effort and to encourage collaboration between them.

This recommendation was actioned. Anthem (the Endowment Fund) and NYAW are complementary and do not represent duplication.

Recommendation 16

We recommend that the Welsh Government monitors the funding available to the Endowment Fund and considers additional injections of capital if necessary.

This recommendation is being actioned. Welsh Government monitors the funding available for the Endowment Fund.



Via Email

6 November 2020

Dear Helen Mary Jones

Amgueddfa Cymru and Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru

I am the National Officer for the union representing senior managers and professionals at both Amgueddfa Cymru (AC) and Llyfrgell Genedlaethol Cymru (LIGC) and am writing to you as Chair of the Senedd's Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee.

FDA Wales submitted written evidence to the Committee's inquiry on the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on heritage, museums and archives in Wales. Our evidence highlighted how the drastic loss of visitor revenue - currently estimated at £1.8 million for AC and £600,000 for LIGC - exacerbated the existing perilous financial positions of both organisations

Two further COVID-19 related factors have amplified the financial pressures:

1. In-year claw backs of 2020 grant-in-aid: **£440,000** for AC and **£200,000** for LIGC.
2. Both organisations have incurred additional unplanned costs of providing equipment for people to work at home and on preparing sites for opening: **£75,000** for LIGC, and a combined total of **£250,000** for AC's seven sites.

FDA Wales also now understands that neither organisation will benefit from any of the £59m cultural recovery package. That is hugely disappointing and a further blow to the organisations.

Without additional GIA funding, it is difficult to see how AC and LIGC can continue work on vital capital maintenance projects. The combined total cost of capital maintenance for AC alone now exceeds **£80 million**, of which around a fifth is essential and urgent.

The financial pressures also threaten the ability of AC and LIGC to digitise content and thus improve the accessibility of national collections to citizens across Wales.

The Tailored Review of LIGC, commissioned by the Welsh Government, recognises that the current funding model is not sustainable. Indeed, as things stand, the scale of LIGC's deficit puts at risk up to **30 jobs** or **13%** of the workforce.



It is difficult to assess the value of AC and LIGC in economic terms, however AC's 2018/19 Operational Plan calculated that every £1 invested in it by the Welsh Government generates £4 of additional expenditure in Wales. **That contributes £83 million of Gross Value Added (GVA) to the Welsh economy** - the highest GVA of any publicly funded cultural institution in Wales. Both institutions are part of the fabric of the cultural history of Wales and must be protected for future generations.

A one-off injection of cash, while welcome, will not address the long term problems caused by structural deficits.

Your Committee's report on the impact of COVID-19 on heritage, museums and archives in Wales recognised how the pandemic has exacerbated the existing perilous financial positions of both organisations. **FDA Wales has already called on Ministers to implement the report's recommendations.**

FDA Wales has also called on the Welsh Government to follow over a decade of cuts to GIA with a new, and sustainable, funding model. A funding model based on a substantial increase in GIA. A funding model to support Welsh culture and protect Welsh jobs.

I would like to discuss this matter with your committee, I would be grateful if someone from your office could please contact me to arrange a meeting.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Hills

FDA Wales National Officer

