



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

