

3 December 2018

Annwyl Dafydd

Thank you for your letter dated 20 November 2018 which was discussed at a meeting of the Board of Trustees on 23 November. The Board unanimously expressed their disappointment with the Welsh Government decision not to support the Broadcast Archive proposal in the second round of the Heritage Lottery Fund Grants Scheme and expressed concern that, as a consequence, £5m of funding may be in jeopardy. We consider that the gifting of the BBC Cymru Wales archive will augment the existing national film and sound archive and will ensure that Wales is a major player in international media archives. In addition, access to the digital version will triple the size of the Library's digital resources and provide a wonderful bilingual resource for educational, community and personal use as well as providing extensive research opportunities. Your officials have been made aware that broadcast law prohibits placing the entire archive online however, working with strategic partners, there is an opportunity to provide access beyond Aberystwyth and to place a thousand programme clips online through the project.

In delivering its Strategic Plan agreed with the Welsh Government in 2016, which includes the proposal to establish a National Broadcast Archive, the Library acknowledges the need for due diligence in managing its resources and has shared relevant information relating to the National Broadcast Archive proposal with your officials since the first round proposal was supported by your predecessor in 2016.

The Library is, of course, prepared to consider all options to preserve this historic Broadcast Archive and to ensure public access to this unique collection. We are now aware that there will be an opportunity to submit the second round proposal by the end of March 2019. Therefore, I would welcome an opportunity for your officials to discuss with ourselves and the BBC how we could move forward and together agree a strong proposal which could be considered by Heritage Lottery Fund at a UK level in early summer 2019.

Dymuniadau gorau



Rhodri Glyn Thomas  
 President

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