

Rt Hon Dafydd Elis Thomas AM
Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport
Welsh Government
Tŷ Hywel
Cardiff Bay CF99 1NA

10 December 2018

Dear Dafydd

National Broadcast Archive

The President and Librarian of the National Library gave evidence to the Committee at our meeting in Aberystwyth on 6 December. Among other matters, the Committee scrutinised the Library's representatives about the application to the Heritage Lottery Fund for £5 million to help establish a National Broadcast Archive.

Members also had sight of the briefing note on the issue circulated by your Private Secretary on 5 December. That note has now been published as a paper to note for this week's meeting of the Committee, alongside the President of the Library's letter to you of 3 December.

At the meeting last week, we were told that the deadline for the funding application is the beginning of March next year but that the effective deadline is the date of the planned meeting between you and representatives of the Library in February. If the Government contribution is not agreed by that date, the project is unlikely to proceed.

Committee Members expressed concern at the apparent prevarication by the Welsh Government over whether it will provide the £1 million of financial support that is needed to bring the project to fruition. Members struggled to understand why the Welsh Government is potentially jeopardising the project for reasons that currently seem unclear and vague.

Members were also concerned that the Welsh Government's objections to the project seem more fundamental than was apparent in the answers you provided following Dai Lloyd's topical question in the Chamber on 28 November.



Given the urgency, and in an attempt to get a clearer understanding of your concerns, the Committee agreed to invite you to attend the Committee's meeting on Thursday 10 January to answer Members' questions on this matter.

I would be grateful if your officials could liaise with the Clerk of the Committee to arrange the precise details.

Yours sincerely

Bethan Sayed.

Bethan Sayed AM
Chair

