

Lord Dafydd Elis-Thomas AM
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism
Welsh Government

3 May 2019

Dear Dafydd,

Thank you for your response to my letter about support for community radio stations.

It is encouraging to hear that the Government's planned campaigns on Positive Parenting and the Valleys Taskforce will be using community radio stations and that more opportunities have been identified to use them in future. I am grateful to you for writing to all the agencies the Welsh Government uses to promote your public information campaigns to remind them to include community radio in their advertising plans.

Please can you provide the Committee with the details of the value of the Government's advertising on community radio collated by the Framework manager when it is available? This will give us a clearer picture of the extent to which community radio is being supported by the Government.

The Committee will be holding a Community Radio Stakeholder Event on 20 June in Cardiff. We have invited representatives to discuss the issues facing local radio and community radio in particular and we will have a chance to consider your response in more detail. In advance of this, I would like to ask for more information on potential financial support for the sector.

In response to our recommendation that the Welsh Government reinstate a Community Radio Fund you said:

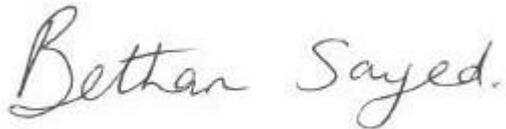
'our position in relation to re-establishing the Fund has not changed and this would need to be considered in line with other competing priorities. A compelling case would need to be made that a new Fund would significantly add value to the availability

and impact of community radio across Wales, especially as stations in Wales are already able to apply for funding from the Community Radio Fund operated by Ofcom.'

Please can you clarify what criteria will be used to judge a compelling case for re-establishing the fund? That way, we can focus our discussions at the stakeholder event. The attendees have already indicated that they are keen to address this issue on the day and I would like to brief our Members in advance.

Please can you respond to this request by 31 May in order for me to update the stakeholders who called for an inquiry into this topic?

Yours sincerely,



Bethan Sayed

Chair of the Committee

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth

Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref: MA - P/DET/0364/19

Bethan Sayed AM
Chair
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

21 May 2019

Annwyl Bethan,

Thank you for your correspondence dated 3 May in relation to community radio in Wales.

In the Welsh Government's response to the Committee report, and in my correspondence dated 9 April, I outlined our position in relation to the Welsh Government's previous Community Radio Fund.

The media landscape has evolved significantly in recent years. The ways people find and consume information are changing, including at the local level. It is unclear therefore that a new Welsh Government Community Radio Fund would have the same impact on the availability of local information as it did previously - especially as stations in Wales are able to apply to the Community Radio Fund operated by Ofcom. We are not aware that the community radio sector in Wales has any concerns about the Ofcom fund. Last year Ofcom issued an invitation to apply for improvements to existing coverage and coverage extensions for community radio services and we understand there was significant interest from stations in Wales¹. Ofcom is still processing the applications at present.

¹ See the section headed "Coverage improvement and extension requests" here: <https://www.ofcom.org.uk/manage-your-licence/radio-broadcast-licensing/monthly-updates/radio-broadcast-update-march-2019>

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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.

If a compelling, evidence based case were to be provided, clearly demonstrating any significant, additional impacts that a new Wales based fund might have in the current media climate, it would be considered in line with other competing priorities and budget pressures.

As outlined in my letter dated 9 April, advertising agencies have been asked to provide details to the Framework manager of engagement work along with advertising value they undertake on any Welsh Government campaigns. This will enable us, moving forward, to gather these details and values on a six-monthly basis and we will provide an update to the Committee when the first set of figures become available.

Yn gywir

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Elis-Thomas'.

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism