

Dafydd Elis-Thomas MS

Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism

Welsh Government

Dyddiad | Date: 29 September 2020

Pwnc | Subject: **Further information on support for the Culture, Sport and Tourism portfolio**

Dear Dafydd,

Thank you for attending the meeting of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee on 17 September. It was very useful to hear the work your department has been doing to provide funding and support to the individuals and organisations within your remit. We have also heard positive comments from stakeholders on the role of Creative Wales in providing information and support.

During the meeting you agreed to provide further information on some of the topics discussed.

Funding

You mentioned that your department is still exploring options for funding sources to support our national institutions that do not qualify for the Cultural Recovery Fund. I would be grateful if you could provide us with any more detail on these efforts.

During the meeting you said that there would be an assessment of the spending to support the individuals and organisations working in the areas within your remit. Understandably this will only take place once the immediate need for support has died down. Please can you outline how you plan to assess value for money from the emergency funding?

In the meeting you said that the £7 million that the Welsh Government has allocated to supporting creative freelancers “is not sufficient, and I think it is only right for us to say that we tried to do what was possible”. Given this recognised funding shortage, why did the Welsh Government not allocate the full £59 million Barnett consequential (that flowed from the UK Government’s announcement of increased culture funding) to its Cultural Recovery Fund, as opposed to the £53 million it has allocated to this fund?

Access to heritage sites

We discussed the drop in visitor numbers to heritage sites and museums. Are you able to provide us with recent figures showing what percentage of the usual visitor numbers can



Senedd Cymru

Bae Caerdydd, Caerdydd, CF99 1SN



SeneddDGCh@senedd.cymru



0300 200 6565

Welsh Parliament

Cardiff Bay, Cardiff, CF99 1SN



SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales



0300 200 6565

be accommodated – and have visited – CADW sites and the National Museum Wales venues since the lockdown restrictions were eased?

Is access to CADW sites and National Museum Wales venues being actively managed? That is, is it possible to give priority to certain groups such as school children? If so, how have you identified priority groups and how was priority access managed?

Journalism and local media

Members were pleased to hear that your meeting with Reach plc and the National Union of Journalists took place. I know you are also concerned by the prospect of redundancies within Reach plc as a result of falling revenues.

You said that you have tasked Creative Wales with looking at how it can support independent publications as an arm's-length body. Please can you clarify if this relates to the news sector? I would be grateful if you could tell us:

- The remit of work in this area you have asked Creative Wales to explore;
- The timeframe Creative Wales has to present you with proposals;
- Whether there is a budget attached to this piece of work, and if so, what this is.

Finally, we ran out time before we were able to ask whether the Welsh Government has any plans to support the Community Radio sector. We have heard evidence of the crucial role they played in providing up to date and accurate information during the pandemic. Can you confirm if you have plans to support the sector either with direct funding or increased advertising?

Yours sincerely,



Helen Mary Jones

Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.

