

Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Meeting Venue:	For further information contact:
Committee Room 2 – Senedd	Steve George
Meeting date: Thursday, 6 October 2016	Committee Clerk
	0300 200 6565
Meeting time: 09.00	SeneddCWLC@assembly.wales

Informal pre-meeting

(08:45 – 09:00)

- 1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest
- 2 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for item 7

3 S4C: General Scrutiny

(09:00 – 10:00)

(Pages 1 – 17)

- Ian Jones, Chief Executive
- Huw Jones, Chair of the S4C Authority

4 ITV Wales: General Scrutiny

(10:00 – 11:00)

(Pages 18 – 22)

- Phil Henfrey, Head of News and Programmes
- Huw Rossiter, Public Affairs Manager



5 BBC Wales: General Scrutiny

(11:00 – 12:00)

(Page 23)

- Rhodri Talfan Davies, Director
- Gareth Powell, Chief Operating Officer

6 Paper(s) to note

6.1 Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Education

- Priorities for Fifth Assembly
- Scrutiny of the Welsh Language
- Scrutiny of Broadcasting and Media

(Page 24)

6.2 Reply from the Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

- Priorities for the Fifth Assembly
- Scrutiny of the Arts
- Scrutiny of Historic Environment

(Pages 25 – 31)

6.3 Letter from the Chair to Director of BBC Wales: Savings of £9m per annum by 2022

(Pages 32 – 33)

6.4 Letter from the Museums Association to the Chair: Randerson Report

(Pages 34 – 35)

6.5 Letter from National Museums Wales to the Chair: Historic Wales

(Pages 36 – 38)

6.6 Letter from National Museums Liverpool to the Chair: Historic Wales

(Page 39)

7 Private debrief

(12:00 – 12:30)

Agenda Item 3

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Agenda Item 4

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Agenda Item 5

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Agenda Item 6.1

Kirsty Williams AC/AM
Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg

Cabinet Secretary for Education

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu

Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

CWLC(5)-05-16 PTN1

Eich cyf/Your ref

Ein cyf/Our ref

Bethan Jenkins

The Welsh Culture,

Welsh Language and Communication Committee



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

26 September 2016

Dear Bethan,

Following the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee meeting on Wednesday 14 September, you requested I provide a note on the remit of the Donaldson Review in relation to the Welsh language through an education continuum.

Successful Futures accepts the case to retain the Welsh language as a compulsory part of the school curriculum for learners aged 3–16. Although the report does not refer specifically to a language continuum for Welsh, recommendation 23 notes that:

Progression in the Welsh language towards transactional competence at age 16 should be appropriately reflected in the related Progression Steps and Achievement Outcomes.

Professor Donaldson's Review, as well as undertaking its own research, had recourse to a wealth of other evidence including the One language for all report.

The design and development of the new curriculum and assessment arrangements is a partnership approach involving a network of Pioneer Schools, policymakers, stakeholders and other experts. There will be six Areas of Learning and Experience (AoLE) in the new curriculum. Within the AoLE for Languages, Literacy and Communications, a single continuum for the Welsh language will be developed as part of the programme of curriculum reform and Welsh second language will not feature in the new curriculum.

Yours sincerely

Kirsty Williams AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros Addysg

Cabinet Secretary for Education

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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.

Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu

Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

CWLC(5)-05-16 PTN2

Bethan Jenkins AM

Chair

Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff

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Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

29 September 2016

Dear Bethan,

Thank you for your letter of 23 September, regarding my appearance before the Committee on 14 September. During that meeting, I promised to provide you with more information on a number of issues, so I am doing so below.

Historic Wales

I issued a written statement on Wednesday 28 September regarding Historic Wales. At the same time I published the PWC report: '*Investing in the future to protect the past*', alongside the terms of reference for the steering group which will take this work through the next phase. I trust the Statement and the report will be helpful for the Committee.

You suggest a briefing session for the Committee on the Historic Environment (Wales) Act 2016, and I would be happy to ask my officials to arrange this when you feel the time is right. If any members would like any further information on the Act in the meantime, they should contact Gwilym Hughes, our Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments and Historic Buildings, at gwilym.hughes2@wales.gsi.gov.uk

The new Museum Plan for Wales

The Expert Review of Museum Services identified a number of key issues facing local museums across Wales. We will ensure our new plan for museums identifies how these will be addressed. I was pleased that sector representatives attended our focus group in August to discuss how museums can move forward over the next five years and by their commitment to working alongside us in developing a strategic, co-ordinated and sustainable plan for the future of museums in Wales. My officials are currently drafting an initial outline of the plan and this will be available for wider consultation early in the New Year.

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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.

The 'Fusion' Programme

My officials have prepared a briefing note summarising the key elements of this programme, and the progress that has been made to date. This is attached, at Annex 1.

The Arts and Creative Learning Programme

As above, my officials have prepared a briefing note, which is attached, at Annex 2.

The 'Media Forum'

The creation of an Independent Media Forum was initially announced by the Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language. The Minister and I are working together to agree in detail the scope and remit of the Independent Media Forum; this will naturally include broadcasting, which falls within his portfolio. Officials are preparing further advice which we will be reviewing shortly. A briefing note will be provided for the Committee's further information in the next few weeks.

I am copying this letter to Alun Davies, so that he is aware of these comments regarding the Media Forum.

Yours sincerely



Ken Skates AC/AM

Ysgrifennydd y Cabinet dros yr Economi a'r Seilwaith
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure

The Fusion Programme: Briefing Note

1. The *Fusion: Tackling Poverty through Culture* programme is a low-cost intervention that is integrating disparate services and aligning them with the Welsh Government's anti-poverty agenda. The Welsh Government through MALD is a facilitator, providing an overarching framework within which numerous organisations can contribute to a shared agenda. The use of culture in this way has not been encouraged, supported and evaluated in this strategic way before. The framework for the Fusion programme is based on Baroness Andrews' report [Culture and Poverty](#). Andrews called for *Cultural and Community Networks* to be established, aligning the cultural sector with community programmes.
2. In 2015-16, in response to Andrews, we established the **Pioneer Area Programme** with 6 participants. With support from MALD, coalitions of cultural and community bodies developed new cultural activity and adapted existing programmes to directly support the Communities First programme. Activity delivered in 2015-16 included accredited digital inclusion programmes, volunteering placements, and schemes to re-engage young people with education. Over 30 projects ran, with over 1,500 participants engaged in activities and over 500 participants in structured programmes, courses or accredited learning.
3. We commissioned a detailed GSR (Government Social Research) [evaluation](#), which found:
 - Bodies are working together more, in more innovative and dynamic ways
 - Cultural bodies in Pioneer Areas are increasingly aligning priorities
 - Pioneer Areas have a positive impact on cultural provision for disadvantaged groups
 - Culture acted as an effective lever to engage individuals
4. In addition to the Pioneer Area programme, we are progressing with several **key national priorities** emerging from the Andrews report. Outputs are designed with disadvantaged communities as a focus. They include:
 - A major Heritage Lottery Fund bid for training placements in the cultural heritage sector.
 - Strategic measures to promote volunteering and accredited learning, eliminate transport barriers, and connect better with the health and wellbeing agenda.
5. In 2016-17 we have expanded the Pioneer Area programme, with **10 Pioneer Areas now operating**. This year we have emphasised outcomes around volunteering opportunities, accredited learning and routes into employment.
6. The Pioneer Area model relies on cultural providers to provide content – venues, staff, activities and expertise. Importantly it is delivered jointly with community employability and anti-poverty programmes, meaning cultural bodies are able to reach deeper into communities and the programme has much greater impact.
7. Prior to the programme, cultural bodies sought to, and in many cases, failed to build deep, sustained links into disadvantaged communities. Outreach tended to be sporadic and most bodies lacked the links to understand and respond to local community need effectively. Nor did they link together effectively. The cultural sector has invested considerably in the Fusion programme and the new ways of thinking it has encouraged.

Creative Learning through the Arts: Briefing Note

Creative learning through the Arts – an action plan for Wales sets out a range of new opportunities for children and young people across Wales. At the core of this activity is learning about the arts and culture, participating in the arts and developing creative skills across the curriculum. Creative learning through the Arts aims to:

- Improve attainment through creativity
- Increase and improve arts experiences and opportunities in schools
- Deliver on the three education priorities: improving literacy, numeracy, and reducing the impact of disadvantage
- Support teachers and arts practitioners in developing their skills.

Creative Learning through the Arts is a 5-year plan, launched in March 2015, and is a partnership between Welsh Government and Arts Council of Wales (ACW). It aims to put creativity and the arts at the heart of learning, and to bring about a sea-change in the way the arts and education sectors work together. For further information, and to download a copy of the plan, visit the website at <http://www.arts.wales/what-we-do/creative-learning/the-all-wales-arts-and-education-programme/regional-arts-and-education-networks>

The Lead Creative Schools Scheme

The Lead Creative Schools Scheme is one of the two main strands of the *Creative learning through the arts* action plan. The scheme offers a unique opportunity to schools to develop creative learning techniques that help them to address key issues identified in their school development plans. All the projects are bespoke, and are expected to include an element of literacy, numeracy or tackling under-achievement among pupils experiencing deprivation. Interestingly, many of the schools in the scheme have been able to use creative approaches to address a variety of additional issues, such as boys' under-achievement and transition. Projects have also been truly cross curricular, involving, for example, science, history, and IT alongside English and maths. A Lead Creative School will have access to creative people, skills and resources to support them and to address these challenges. The Lead Creative Schools Scheme will:

- Operate over the lifetime of the *Creative learning through the arts – an action plan for Wales*
- Use creative learning approaches to drive up attainment levels, and as tools for whole-school improvement
- Develop meaningful, sustainable partnerships that specifically target self-identified areas of development for schools in Wales

In Round 1

- 99 grants were offered, to support 128 schools actively involved in projects.
- 325 applications for Round 1 'Creative Agent roles' were received. 64 individuals were shortlisted and invited to attend training and 59 individuals were trained at one of three intensive 4-day courses in Cardiff and Wrexham. 48 individuals were matched to schools and contracted as Creative Agents in Year 1 (*6 people withdrew or deferred due to changes in circumstances; 5 were not matched to schools.*)

In Round 2

- 120 grants were offered to support 148 schools actively involved in projects.

- 211 applications for Round 2 Creative Agent roles were received. 94 individuals were shortlisted and invited to attend training in May 2016. 87 individuals attended training in May at Nantgarw, Swansea, or Llandudno. Matching Creative Agents to schools took place in early June. Of the 87 trainees, one person stood down and 14 were not recommended for matching. This left a pool of 72 Round 2 Creative Agents.

514 expressions of interest have been received to date from individuals/organisations wanting to get involved in a Lead Creative Schools project. In 2015, ACW ran 6 training sessions for Round 1 Year 1 Creative Practitioners Approx. 135 individuals attended training. In 2016, CP training is scheduled across the regions for the whole month of November. Applications for Round 3 of the programme, to start in the academic year 2017/18, will open on 6 October 2016.

Lead Creative School case study: St Cenydd Community Secondary School, Caerphilly

Increasing the engagement, attendance and attainment of eFSM pupils in year 8 in Geography and numeracy and literacy.

Tracey Moberly – high profile visual and multi-media artist based locally, working with local Geography teacher Nicola Webber. Devised project using social media/film/photography to investigate the changes in the Nant yr Aber river from its source to the confluence into the Rhymney river mouth and its effects on the type of communities it passes through. A 'hands on' approach to geography. Literacy tasks were interwoven into the 'field trip' activity with pupils documenting their project through blogs, poetry, multi-media and visual arts.

Lead Creative School impact on attainment: Bryn Primary School

Oracy Gains: 100% of pupils made gains of 2 or more sublevels, 50% of pupils made gains of 3 sublevels. 93% are working on or above end of KS2 National Curriculum Level and 71 % have met or exceeded their personal targets set.

Writing Gains: 100% of pupils made gains, 64% made gains of 2 or more sublevels, 79% are already working on or above end of KS2 National Curriculum Level and 43% have met their personal target set.



Arts Council of Wales Regional Teams are available to support the scheme:

North Wales nia.richards@arts.wales, Mid & West Wales : sophie.hadaway@arts.wales

South East Wales: shaun.featherstone@arts.wales South Central Wales:

ian.mcandrew@arts.wales

Further information, and a copy of the Lead Creative Schools Prospectus, is available at <http://www.arts.wales/what-we-do/creative-learning/the-lead-creative-schools-scheme/creative-practitioners>

Experiencing the Arts

We believe that children and young people should have the chance to be inspired and excited by the best that the arts in Wales has to offer. Our aim is to provide children and young people with opportunities to engage with the arts and cultural activities as a routine part of their wider learning experience. Experiencing the Arts is a two-strand scheme that we believe will make a big impact on the learning experiences of our young people, wherever they live in Wales.

Go and See

Go and See is a scheme that can be used to fund visits to high-quality arts events in galleries, theatres, arts centres and other venues. Events could include visits to performances and exhibitions or visits to experience arts professionals developing and creating their work. Schools can apply for up to £1,000 at any time in the year. ACW will award up to 90% of the costs of the experience. 29 awards have been made to date, to the value of c.£20k. Examples include:

- Romilly Primary School took 90 Reception pupils to National Museum in Wales to participate in 'First Gallery Visit' project, visiting exhibition, taking part in workshops/activity with artists.
- Ysgol Bro Tawe took 85 pupils to Theatr Na nÓg production *The Ghost of Morfa Colliery* and creative workshops at National Waterfront Museum and National Museum in Swansea.
- Ysgol Carrog took 15 KS2 (entire key stage) pupils to Rhyl Pavilion to hear author Michael Morpurgo read from his books.
- Ysgol Dyffryn Amman took 21 Year 10 pupils to Carmarthenshire School of Art for a ceramics workshop.
- Adamsdown Primary School took 60 pupils from Y4 & 5 to Hijinx Unity Festival at the Wales Millennium Centre.

Creative Collaborations

The essence of Creative Collaborations is innovation. When schools and/or arts, culture or heritage organisations submit applications, they must convince ACW that the proposal is innovative, additional and sustained. Schools wishing to work in a sustained way with an arts organisation or other cultural or heritage organisation, may apply for up to £25,000. ACW cannot offer funding to schools already benefiting from a Lead Creative Schools Scheme grant. It will award up to 90% of the costs. ACW requires written evidence of the collaboration between the school and the other organisations involved in the project. 10 awards have been made to date, to a value of c.£163k. Examples include:

- Mid Wales Opera with Montgomery CiW School in Powys, running 2 week-long residencies with entire junior school, to create, develop, and perform two new productions, using Janacek's *Cunning Little Vixen* and Saint-Exupéry's *The Little Prince* as inspiration.
- Motion Control Dance, and 4 primaries and 1 secondary school in Barry are developing a creative participatory dance programme to raise attainment and physical activity of pupils from Communities First areas; the target group is Year 6 and 7 girls.
- Ysgol Awel y Mynydd in Conwy is working with 7 other local primary schools to create a ukulele orchestra, and to develop more cohesion within their community of schools.

The next deadline for applications is 17 October 2016.

For more information on both funding strands, and to download a copy of the funding guidelines, is available at <http://www.arts.wales/what-we-do/creative-learning/the-all-wales-arts-and-education-programme/experiencing-the-arts>

Regional Arts and Education Networks (RAENs)

The Networks work with schools, the Regional Education Consortia (REC), local authorities and stakeholders in the education, arts, creative, cultural and heritage sectors in these four regions. The networks will increase and improve arts experiences and opportunities in schools by forging links between:

- teachers, educationalists and partners from the education sector
- arts practitioners, arts organisations and venues
- cultural and heritage organisations, venues, museums, libraries and archives
- local authority arts providers, including music services
- higher education arts and cultural partners
- the creative industries sector

Each Network has up to £1.25m to provide networking events and virtual networking opportunities. Their remit is to:

- Organise high-quality professional development opportunities, for teachers, artists, arts and cultural organisations
- Coordinate networking opportunities for teachers and creative people from the arts, creative, cultural, and heritage sectors
- Act as a broker, to connect schools, artists and arts organisations
- Share examples of best practice
- Deliver a local 'Arts Champions' programme

The RAENs are based on the same geographical boundaries as the REC and are led by:

North Wales: Flintshire County Council; Network Coordinators: Mari Pritchard and Iwan Williams mari@edau.cymru and iwan@eadu.cymru

Mid & West Wales: University of Wales Trinity St David; Network Coordinator: Rhian Janes Rhian.jones@uwtsd.ac.uk

South East Wales: Caerphilly Borough Council; Network Coordinator: Victoria Jones jonesvje@caerphilly.gov.uk

South central Wales: Arts Active Trust; Network Coordinator: David Baxter dave@artsactive.org.uk

Further information is available at: <http://www.arts.wales/what-we-do/creative-learning/the-all-wales-arts-and-education-programme/regional-arts-and-education-networks>

The Creative Learning Zone

The Creative Learning Zone (on Hwb) is full of case studies on different aspects of *Creative learning through the arts* and details of opportunities and information for schools and creative professionals wishing to work with schools.

<http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/creativity>

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
CWLC(5)-05-16 PTN3

Rhodri Talfan Davies,
Director,
BBC Cymru Wales

30 September 2016

Dear Rhodri,

Savings of £9m per annum by 2022

The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee of the National Assembly for Wales is aware of your recent announcement to implement a major reorganisation aimed at saving £9m per annum by 2022.

I understand you are scheduled to appear before Committee on 6 October, ahead of our session with Tony Hall, Director-General of the BBC on 2 November.

I would like to take this opportunity to register our deep concern over this announcement.

You will know that, as a result of the recent Memorandum of Understanding, this Assembly and the Welsh Government now have a formal consultation role in the BBC and its future.

Ensuring that Wales' voice and the concerns of Welsh audiences are recognised through the creation of the Culture, Welsh Language & Communications Committee. This brings with it a new and serious responsibility to fully scrutinise the way the BBC is funded, as well as the way it delivers its services in Wales.

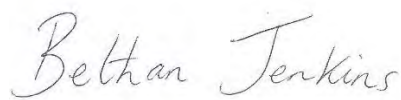


These proposed savings come at a time when the debate about how life in Wales is reflected by the BBC, along with its portrayal across the network, has come to the fore once again. If we are to receive fresh commitments from the BBC Director General when he appears before the committee, we will have to ask how that will be funded, especially in the context of the savings proposed by BBC Wales. We do not wish to see content and programming affected in a detrimental way, and neither do we wish to receive merely warm words of intent. We need action now.

The Committee welcomes the commitment made in your Management Review 2015/16 to 'invest additional money in dedicated English language television content for Wales.' However, given your recent announcement, we are now at a time when the exact amount of such investment needs urgent clarification.

I look forward to 6 October and the opportunity to explore these matters in greater detail.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bethan Jenkins". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid.

Bethan Jenkins AM

Chair



Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee
CWLC(5)-05-16 PTN4

Bethan Jenkins AM
Chair Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

30 September 2016

Dear Ms Jenkins,

The Museums Association is writing to request that the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee urgently scrutinises the Welsh Government's plans to take forward the recommendations of the Randerson Report by PwC – Investing in the Future to Protect the Past.

The Museum Association is extremely concerned about the Government's announcement this week that it would create a new body Historic Wales, thus merging the commercial functions, in the first instance, for the following reasons:

- There has been no public or sector consultation;
- The plans are tantamount to a merger of Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales with other heritage bodies and therefore pose a significant threat to the future of the institution as an arms-length public body;
- The move will severely undermine the independence and financial sustainability of Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales;
- The move will undermine Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales' ability to carry out its core functions as a national museum for Wales.

This is an unprecedented move and the Report's suggestion that its recommendations are based on best practice in Scotland and England is highly misleading. No other government in the UK has sought to directly control its national museums in this way, nor to incorporate museums' activities into a generic heritage organisation.

The Museums Association requests that Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee urgently scrutinises the Government's plans at its meeting next week and is happy to give any evidence or support that is required.

Yours sincerely



Sharon Heal
Director, Museums Association

About the Museums Association

The MA is the largest UK membership organisation representing museums and galleries and the people who work for them. It has over 6,800 individual members and 600 institutional members, including national, local authority, independent, university and military museums. It was formed in 1889 and is a not-for-profit charity that seeks to inform, represent and develop museums and the people who work for them in order that they may provide a better service to society and the public.

Agenda Item 6.5

Amgueddfa Cymru

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30 September 2016

Bethan Jenkins AM

National Assembly for Wales

Cardiff Bay

CARDIF CF99 1NA

Dear Bethan

I am writing to you today in your role as Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications committee following comments made at Plenary on Wednesday afternoon (28th September 2016). The Museum has been made aware in particular of the comments made by Suzy Davies AM, Dai Lloyd AM and yourself in relation to Historic Wales, which had been announced via a written statement by the Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Infrastructure earlier that day.

We noted the concerns raised by members of the Committee in about the announcement, and the potential impact on Amgueddfa Cymru and wanted to assure the Committee through you, as Chair, that this announcement is being given the full attention of our staff, management team and Board of Trustees.

At our Board of Trustees meeting yesterday, a working group was set-up to consider as a matter of urgency how best to contribute to the work of the Historic Wales Steering Group. A letter has also been sent by the President of the Museum to the Cabinet Secretary earlier today, seeking clarification in relation to the proposals. A copy of this letter is attached, to further assure the Committee that our management team and Board are giving the proposals detailed attention. This will ensure that the implications for Amgueddfa Cymru as a National Museum with a Royal Charter, as a registered charity, and for our trading operation as a limited company, are fully considered.

Should the Committee or any of its members have any other questions or queries as the proposals for Historic Wales progresses, we would of course engage fully with this process in a positive and constructive way.

Warm regards

David Anderson
Director General

Llywydd/President Elisabeth Elias MA DL

Is-Llywydd/Vice President Dr Haydn Edwards MBA PhD FRSC

Trysorydd/Treasurer Laurence Pavein CBE FCA

Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol/Director General David Anderson OBE

Rhif elusen / Charity registration number: 525774

Rhif TAW / VAT registration number: GB 783 4541 10

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30 September 2016

Ken Skates AC/AM
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF CF99 1NA

Dear Ken,

We welcome the publication of the PwC Report and the invitation to be part of the Historic Wales Steering Group. Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales will contribute positively to the discussions exploring options for greater collaboration between Wales' heritage organisations including the National Library of Wales, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Cadw.

We also fully support the ambition to realise the commercial potential of Wales's heritage bodies and organisations, whilst protecting their independence and their individual identity, integrity and core purpose.

Following consideration of the PwC Report at the Board of Trustees meeting yesterday, a working group has been set up to consider as a matter of urgency how best to contribute to the work of the **Historic Wales** Steering Group.

The Board of Trustees of Amgueddfa Cymru would be grateful for clarification from you as Cabinet Secretary to the proposals outlined in Wednesday's ministerial statement and the subsequent press release, allowing sufficient time for our consideration of your response before the next meeting of the Steering Group which is due to take place on 24th October 2016. In particular we would welcome the following information:

1. Could the Cabinet Secretary please clarify the statement made on Wednesday that "plans to bring the commercial functions of Cadw and Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales together have moved a step closer today" and reference to the "commitment to the creation of new body, Historic Wales." These statements indicate that some key decisions have already been taken. Please can you let us know in more detail what these are?

Llywydd/President Elisabeth Elias MA DL
Is-Llywydd/Vice President Dr Haydn Edwards MBA PhD FRSC
Trysorydd/Treasurer Laurence Pavelin CBE FCA
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol/Director General David Anderson OBE
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2. What is the evidence base for these decisions?
3. Why was it decided to include Amgueddfa Cymru in this week's announcement, and not the National Library or the Royal Commission?
4. It is assumed that the **Historic Wales** Steering Group, should it wish, will be able to commission feasibility studies and develop a business case for each of the four Options in the PwC Report. Please can you confirm this point.
5. Will such studies be managed by the Steering Group or by the Welsh Government?
6. What does the Cabinet Secretary believe should be the role, functions and responsibilities of **Historic Wales**?
7. What in the view of the Cabinet Secretary should be the legal status of **Historic Wales**, and what governance structure should it have?
8. The original Terms of Reference circulated to the Steering Group listed a wide range of functions that were within the scope of **Historic Wales**, which were subsequently omitted from the revised version. How will the Government ensure that control and responsibility for the core work and business decisions of the Museum will remain with its Board and management?
9. Can the Cabinet Secretary confirm that any proposed changes will respect the Museum's Royal Charter, its charitable status, the responsibilities of its Enterprises Company and duty of care for staff?

The Museum is entering these discussions with the Welsh Government, Trade Unions and potential cultural partners in a positive and constructive way, with the aim of strengthening the nation's cultural institutions for the benefit of the people of Wales. However, we as Trustees of Amgueddfa Cymru are also conscious of our responsibilities as a National Museum with a Royal Charter, a registered charity and for our trading operation as a limited company.

It is essential that full consideration is given to the implications of any proposed changes only after further feasibility studies have been conducted. The Steering Group may also offer strong alternative proposals in addition to those that feature in the PwC report, and help the Government to achieve the objective of a thriving and sustainable cultural sector.

We look forward to working with you through the Steering Group and to your early reply.

*Yours sincerely,
Elisabeth*

Elisabeth Elias
President

Dear Bethan Jenkins

I write as Director of National Museums Liverpool (NML) to express to you our deep concern at the reported proposal to bring together the commercial functions of Amgueddfa Cymru, National Museum Wales and CADW, and I urge you to do what you can to ensure there is a full reconsideration of this proposal.

As you will know, NML welcomes very many visitors from North Wales. For this and for many other reasons we have a particular affinity with our colleagues in Wales. Not least of these is a shared approach to the role of museums in addressing issues such as child poverty.

The international reputation of Amgueddfa Cymru is formidable, and as a national museum it is very highly-respected for its innovative work and its impact. Any action that threatens the arms-length principle of governance of a national museum service will send out all the wrong messages about Welsh attitudes to democracy; these proposals have, indeed, already led to doubts about the intentions of the Welsh government with regard to the future of Amgueddfa Cymru, and the worry is that the present proposals are a precursor to a merger that would mean the loss of independence of Amgueddfa Cymru. I cannot stress enough the pivotal role that Wales's national museum service plays in the demonstration of Welsh nationality, and the damage that could result from any diminution of that role.

Of course I understand the financial pressures that we are all enduring at the moment. My own organisation has lost 140 posts over the past two years, and we are feeling a great deal of pain. But we are doing all we can to deliver an unimpaired service to the public that is the primary concern of national museums, wherever they are. This includes developing our commercial activities.

As I understand it, there has been no public consultation on these proposals, and there is no evidence that the proposals will lead to the improvement of national services. Indeed, it looks to me as though it will be very difficult to run an impactful national museum service if its commercial activities were to be taken away.

I do hope you will regard this letter as a statement of support for Amgueddfa Cymru, and that the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee considers the full implications of this proposal as a matter of urgency.

With best wishes

David Fleming