

## Statement.

Members of the Review Panel have had sight of the statement presented by Literature Wales to the Cabinet Secretary and the Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee.

The Cabinet Secretary asked the Review Panel to consider and comment on the concerns expressed by Literature Wales and Arts Council Wales regarding the recommendations presented.

Literature Wales made it very clear in their public statements that they considered that there was no evidence to support the recommendations or statements within the report.

The Review Panel responded to the Cabinet Secretary.

Literature Wales now claim that the Review Panel did consider evidence but that it was historic evidence. The narrative has changed. Was there evidence or was there not?

The Review Panel was established in 2015, it met and deliberated until early 2017. It received reports/evidence to cover the period. It came to a collective view based upon the evidence received during that period of enquiry.

Literature Wales criticise the Review Panel for not “acknowledging the current state of play”. It could not. The review had been completed.

Literature Wales is in denial that there are issues which need to be addressed by the organisation so that the sector can move on and develop. They focus upon themselves not upon the requirements of the wider literary or publishing community.

The very manner in which they have responded to the identification of issues to be considered and resolved, and their professional engagement post publication of the report lies at the heart of the problem. It reinforces a number of the comments and concerns received **in evidence** during the review.

“There is an element of protectionism in the way the company perceives its work and role”. (ACW)

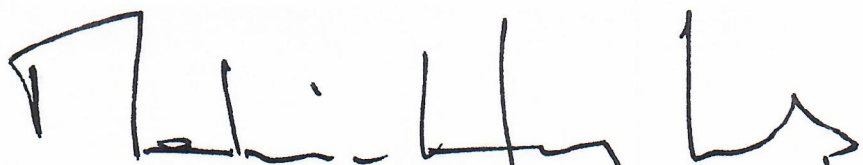
“The organisation can adopt an attack/defence line as its default position”. (ACW)

“There is a lack of a coherent strategic framework and we have concerns about whether the organisation has adequately demonstrated the level of strategic leadership we would expect from a national company”. (ACW)

The Review Panel considers these views to be valid. It also has noted the view of stakeholders and authors who have expressed an opinion on the issues identified.

“Many of the comments in the report, the public submission, comments are things which have been criticisms for quite a while”. (BBC Report, Author Response).

“I think a key thing is for Literature Wales to now face that criticism, address it, respond to it and re-engage with those writers who have been alienated from the organisation.” (BBC Report, Author Response).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. H. L.', is located at the bottom right of the page.