

Senedd Cymru / Welsh Parliament

Pwyllgor Diwylliant, y Gymraeg a Chyfathrebu / Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee

Ymchwiliad i'r achosion o COVID-19 ac effaith y feirws ar ddiwylliant, y diwydiannau creadigol, treftadaeth, cyfathrebu a chwaraeon / Inquiry into the COVID-19 outbreak and its impact on culture, creative industries, heritage, communications and sport

CWLC COV40

Ymateb gan Screen Alliance Wales / Response from Screen Alliance Wales



Covid-19 inquiry

Heading 1:

- What has been the immediate impact of Covid-19 on the sector?

The main impact of the lockdown has been the fact that production has stopped at the studio where we are based and other locations across Wales. As a consequence, we have not been in a position to provide shadowing or work opportunities in what has been a growing industry in Wales.

Secondary to this, educational institutions such as schools and further education have also closed meaning our main route of communication with people seeking guidance on careers in the creative industries has also been severely limited.

Heading 2:

- How effectively has the support provided by the Welsh Government, the UK Government and arms-length bodies addressed the sector's needs?

Through our social media channels, we have been able to share the support the Welsh Government has been able to provide. This has helped give some reassurance to our partners in the sector, in particular the freelance industry that this has had a severe impact, whom we rely on for support, during some unprecedented times.

Heading 3:

- What will the likely long-term impacts of Covid-19 be on the sector, and what support is needed to deal with those?

As a consequence of the lockdown, there has been a minimum of 3 months lost to production (as of time of writing and is likely to be longer). Facing such a delay, some projects which would have provided work shadowing or entry level positions have been cancelled.

When production resumes, work shadowing/placements/traineeships on production could cease due to protocols and industry guidelines necessitating a need for essential crew only.

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In the longer-term relationships will need to be re-established and social distancing measures are likely to result in tighter budgets.

Schools are still unable to provide firm guidance on how they will be operating come September, and the methods by which we normally interacted with them (such as visits to schools or them coming to the studio) may take a significant while longer before they can resume. We also foresee (to be confirmed as schools and qualification bodies map out process for education to restart) a degree of remote communication for a long time to come.

Heading 4:

- What lessons can be learnt from how the Welsh Government, the UK Government, arms-length bodies and the sector have dealt with Covid-19?

Establishing a set of guidelines for the shutting down of productions, and a framework for how they are to be re-opened would be very useful, particularly in the event of a second wave or another such event occurring in the future. In addition, clarity between the UK Government, Welsh Government and the Nations in addressing the 'back to work' procedures is imperative if Wales is to remain competitive in delivering productions.

Heading 5:

- How might the sector evolve after Covid-19, and how can the Welsh Government support such innovation to deal with future challenges?

Going forward, it would be of great advantage to have a platform in place for working with educational institutions remotely. As already mentioned, communication channels have been sporadic when teachers not in schools. This needs to be rectified as pathways for the world of work to support schools are crucial for the delivery of the aims set out in the Donaldson review of Welsh education.

We are aware that the team behind the Hwb platform have been very busy adapting to circumstances, but hopefully going forward they will be able to accommodate greater industry support to help reinforce the objectives of the new curriculum.

We are currently adapting some of our delivery to accommodate virtual formats, and we believe any collaboration with Welsh Government would be beneficial to ensure industries

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have every opportunity to share their guidance with schools. This will as to both adapt to virological and environmental challenges and ensure people across the whole of the country are supported and provide a diverse workforce in the future.