

Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS  
Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1006  
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02738/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
Chair, Petitions Committee

22 October 2020

Dear Janet,

Thank you for your letter of 13 October. As previously noted in my letter of 2 September, the creative industries has been one of the fastest growing parts of the Welsh economy for a number of years, and in January 2020 the Welsh Government established Creative Wales as an internal body to champion the creative industries in Wales. Supporting the Music sector has been identified as a priority area of focus for Creative Wales.

A COVID-19 music stakeholder support group was established at the start of the pandemic to gather intelligence on its impact on the live music sector and to work with partners to identify how Creative Wales could best provide support in response.

That has included a repurposing of the Grassroots Music Venues Fund to meet the immediate needs of grassroots businesses. A total of over £401,000 was allocated to 22 grassroots music businesses across Wales.

Live music venues have been able to access the Welsh Government's Cultural Recovery Fund, established in recognition of the continuing challenges being faced by live music businesses, venues and artists and the difficulties associated with resuming activity in light of the measures taken to limit the spread of the virus.

We are continuing to work with the COVID-19 music stakeholder group on various issues including the longer term sustainability of the music venues.

It was for the Welsh Government to determine how it allocated its share of the UK Government's £1.57bn package of support for the UK's culture sector. £53m has been allocated for the Wales Cultural Recovery Fund for the Arts (CRFA). The additional funding

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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.

is still available to Welsh Ministers, who are considering how this can be best deployed to support recovery from the current crisis. Our immediate focus is distributing the CRFA to ensure the survival of the arts in Wales.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AS/MS**

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