

## **Agenda – Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee**

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Meeting Venue:

**Committee meeting via Zoom**

Meeting date: 5 August 2020

Meeting time: 09.00

For further information contact:

**Manon George**

Committee Clerk

0300 200 6565

[SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales](mailto:SeneddCWLC@senedd.wales)

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### **Registration**

(09:00 – 09:30)

### **1 Introductions, apologies, substitutions and declarations of interest**

### **2 Inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on journalism and local media**

(09:30–10:10)

(Pages 1 – 10)

Alan Edmunds and Paul Rowland, Reach PLC

### **Break**

(10:10–10:25)

### **3 Inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on journalism and local media**

(10:25–11:05)

Martin Shipton and Pamela Morton, National Union of Journalists



## **4 Paper(s) to note**

### **4.1 Letter from the National Union of Journalists**

(Page 11)

### **4.2 Welsh Government response to the report on the impact of COVID-19 on the arts**

(Pages 12 – 14)

### **4.3 Letter from the Petitions Committee on the music feasibility study**

(Page 15)

### **4.4 Correspondence with the Welsh Government on the First Supplementary Budget 2020–21**

(Pages 16 – 18)

## **5 Motion under Standing Order 17.42 to resolve to exclude the public from the meeting for the remainder of the meeting**

## **6 Consideration of evidence**

(11:05–11:20)

## **7 Inquiry into the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on heritage, museums and archives: Consideration of draft report**

(11:20–11:40)

(Pages 19 – 37)

## **8 Inquiry into public monuments: Draft Terms of Reference**

(11:40–12:00)

(Pages 38 – 42)

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# Agenda Item 4.1

12 July 2020

Dear Member of the Senedd,

We are writing as lay officials of the National Union of Journalists who represent members working for Reach plc in Wales to seek your support and help in a situation that we believe poses a very serious threat to the media in Wales.

As you know, Reach is by far the largest publisher of newspapers in Wales, with a stable that includes the Western Mail, the Daily Post, the South Wales Echo, the South Wales Evening Post, Wales on Sunday and a number of associated weekly papers, as well as the news websites WalesOnline and North Wales Live.

On July 7 Reach announced that because of diminished revenues during the lockdown, it was making 550 jobs across Britain redundant.

On Friday July 10 details began to emerge about the impact of this announcement in Wales.

In Cardiff, more than 70 journalists were told their jobs are on a redundancy "at risk" list, while in North Wales the number of "at risk" journalists is 20.

While the plan is for a smaller number of journalists to leave - around 15 from Media Wales in Cardiff and Swansea, we understand, with an as yet unknown additional number from North Wales - the reduction will inevitably have a detrimental impact on news coverage in our nation.

NUJ members also have grave concerns about the group's commitment to Wales following a decision to effectively merge Media Wales - the Cardiff and Swansea operation - with an English division of Reach covering the Midlands, Cheshire and Lincolnshire.

There is no longer an editor-in-chief based in Cardiff, and the new cross-border division will be run by a "Marketplace Publisher" based in Birmingham.

Meanwhile the editor of the Daily Post has been removed from his post at very short notice and the business is run by a Marketplace Publisher based in the north west of England.

There are also plans to integrate the work of journalists working in Wales with the London-based "national" papers, the Daily Mirror, the Daily Express and the Daily Star, as well as their websites. At the same time, the intention is to replace stories and features produced by redundant writers who have been working in Wales with material produced by a "shared content" unit based in England.

Inevitably this would dilute the Welsh content of the brands and lead to the publication of health and education stories, for example, that have no relevance in Wales because of the devolution settlement. It would create additional confusion in readers' minds about which level of government was responsible for public services in Wales.

We regard these proposals as a major threat to our media and to our Welsh democracy. If you agree with us we ask you to express your concern by writing to one of the two senior executives driving the plans - Alan Edmunds, now chief operations officer of Reach plc, but at one time editor of the Western Mail. His email address is [alan.edmunds@reachplc.com](mailto:alan.edmunds@reachplc.com).

Thank you in advance for your support, for which we are very grateful.

Best wishes,

Martin Shipton, Father of the Media Wales NUJ Chapel and Reach Group Chapel Chair

Sarah Hodgson, Mother of the Daily Post Chapel

Ein cyf/Our ref MA/DET/2237/20

Helen Mary Jones MS  
Chair  
Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
National Assembly for Wales  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff CF99 1NA

9 July 2020

Dear Helen Mary Jones,

### **Report on the Impact of the COVID 19 Outbreak on the Arts Sector**

Thank you for your letter dated 4 June.

This Inquiry has highlighted the financial challenges that our arts sector is facing, and the evidence gathered by the Committee has been most helpful in clarifying the areas where extra support might be needed.

I therefore welcome this report.

My response to the recommendations are below.

***Recommendation 1. The Welsh Government should lobby the UK Government to urge that:***

- *the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme continues beyond May 2020 and the Job Retention Scheme continues beyond October 2020; and*
- *the Self-Employed Income Support Scheme is revised to ensure no freelance workers fall through the gaps in eligibility for the scheme.*

These initiatives have provided vital support to the sector and those individuals relying on them for their livelihoods. The Welsh Government, through the Minister for Finance and Trefnydd and the Minister for the Economy, Transport and North Wales, has made representations to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging the UK Government to extend the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme and Self-Employed Income Support Scheme. With an extension to these schemes now seemingly unlikely, the Welsh Government welcomes the recent announcement by the UK Government of £1.57 billion to protect cultural and arts

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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.

institutions across the UK, which includes an additional £59m consequential to the Welsh Government. We accept the recommendation.

***Recommendation 2.*** *The Welsh Government should establish an events and entertainment working group to:*

- *liaise with the UK Government's Cultural Renewal Task force;*
- *draw up guidance on reopening for live venues, performers and related businesses to be published by 1 August 2020; and*
- *recognise that our major arts organisations may not return to profitability for many years and be prepared to extend the necessary public funding to ensure their survival.*

We are prepared to accept this recommendation but within our established approaches which we have developed to respond to this crisis in an open and consultative manner. As a Culture, Sport and Tourism portfolio our engagement process started in mid-April with a large virtual conference involving a range of stakeholders. Engagement has continued in a range of settings throughout this period with the Minister for International Relations & Welsh Language and myself, for example, meeting the five sponsored bodies within the portfolio, which includes Arts Council Wales, on a regular basis. Discussions across the sector have been very fluid, both at Ministerial and official level, along with regular dialogue with the UK Government. Engagement will continue to guide future activities as we emerge further from lockdown and into recovery.

Working groups have been created to inform and support the development of guidance for our sectors and to inform the 21 day review Coronavirus regulations process. Our guidance will need to evolve as restrictions are eased and further guidance will be required for live venues, such as theatres and concert halls. We will aim to provide additional guidance at the earliest opportunity.

We fully recognise the longer-term challenges facing the sector. Funding initiatives, such as the Job Retention Scheme and the Economic Resilience Fund, have provided a lifeline to the sector but will not be enough over the long-term to protect jobs and ensure our arts sectors can thrive once again. We will continue to work with our arts sectors to ensure that support is designed and targeted in the most effective way possible.

***Recommendation 3.*** *In order to renew and sustain the sector the Welsh Government should begin conversations with representatives from the arts sector to set a long term policy direction which is sustainable, inclusive and accessible.*

We accept the recommendation. Before the current crisis I had commissioned a review of our future priorities for the culture and sport sectors. That work was already underway when the lockdown and the wider crisis intervened. The Welsh Government will be seeking to resume this work but now with an even greater emphasis on engaging with our partners and stakeholders to explore how we can work together to emerge safely and positively from the crisis and set a positive path for the future. I am committed to making a statement later this year.

Yours sincerely,

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

**Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM**

Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Twristiaeth a Chwaraeon  
Minister for Culture, Tourism and Sport

# Agenda Item 4.3

Senedd Cymru  
Welsh Parliament

Welsh Parliament  
**Petitions Committee**

Helen Mary Jones MS  
Chair, Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
Welsh Parliament  
Ty Hywel  
Cardiff Bay  
CF99 1SN

13 July 2020

Dear Helen Mary

## **Petition P-05-880 Wales is Rapidly Losing its Musical Reputation and Heritage**

Thank you for your letter of 13 March which the committee at our meeting on 23 June, alongside further comments from the Petitioner.

At that meeting, the Committee agreed to close the petition in light of the fact that you will be monitoring further progress in relation to funding and delivery of music education services, following your previous report on this subject. In doing so the committee agreed to share with you the petitioners latest comments.

Further information about the petition, including related correspondence, is available on our website at:

<https://business.senedd.wales/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=25303>.

If you have any queries, please contact the Committee clerking team at the e-mail address above, or on 0300 200 6454.

Yours sincerely



Janet Finch-Saunders AS/MS  
Cadeirydd/Chair

Enc: Correspondence from the petitioner dated 15.06.20



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Our ref MA-EM-21770-20

Helen Mary Jones MS  
Chair of Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee  
Welsh Parliament

14 July 2020

Dear Helen Mary,

Thank you for your letter of 17 June in relation to the budget decisions for the Welsh language in the First Supplementary Budget 2020-21. To support the Welsh economy and public services to respond swiftly to the unprecedented challenges of the pandemic, it was necessary to reprioritise budgets supporting the Welsh language. Whilst this has been challenging in the short term, we have worked closely with our partners during this time to maximise the digital opportunities and direct funding to organisations with immediate needs. Consequently, within my portfolio there was a reduction of £1.995m to the Welsh Language budget and reprioritised funding of £0.8m allocated to our iconic national events within the Events Wales budget. In addition, there was a modest reduction of £0.350m within the Education MEG following a detailed review. Overall, the total budget maintained for both portfolios of £35m will continue to support the delivery of *Cymraeg 2050*.

In response to your comments and questions, I have distinguished the decisions by portfolio as the Minister for Education is responsible for the Welsh in Education budget.

### **International Relations and the Welsh Language MEG**

#### **The National Centre for Learning Welsh**

Budget impact assessments were undertaken to support the reprioritisation of budgets within the portfolio. Decisions are monitored and continually reassessed to minimise negative impacts and ensure that we continue to deliver on our commitments in *Cymraeg 2050*. The savings identified were primarily for the National Centre for Learning Welsh. To clarify the current budgetary situation for Learn Welsh, I can confirm that the Cymraeg Gwaith budget for 2020-21 has been reduced by £1,020,000 leaving a budget of £1,480,000. This was the main saving due to the fact that some of this work could not be undertaken due to Covid-19 (many workplaces were closed, some sectors could not give Welsh lessons a priority, and residential courses could no longer be held). The Centre's main recurrent grant for the 2020/21 academic year, which funds the regional providers, has been confirmed as £8,473,000. This represents a saving of £337,000 compared to 2019/20. Finally, the Centre's

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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.

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Core grant, which funds its central operation, has been confirmed as £1,723,800 for 2020/21, which is a saving of £176,200 compared to 2019/20.

Prior to confirming the budget reduction, discussions were held with external partners on how the pandemic would affect their ways of working, what support they would need and potential financial savings that may arise. The discussions with the National Centre for Learning Welsh focussed on rapidly improving and extending the online and blended learning provision available to learners. The Centre led these improvements by forming a specialist group to share best practice on online learning, and has accelerated the production of online teaching resources that were already planned.

Throughout this period, I have been very pleased with the professionalism and the positivity shown by the Centre and by the Learn Welsh tutors across Wales. They have been able to ensure that the full programme of community face-to-face learning is delivered via on-line platforms and a new blended learning programme launched. The interest in this programme exceeded all expectations and 1,300 new learners have signed up to 89 online classes. In addition, the Centre has formed a new exciting partnership with the “Say Something in Welsh” company. This will ensure even more opportunities for Welsh learners to use and enjoy the language, and allows for sharing of resources and expertise.

I am very hopeful that we can build upon these improvements, and the success of the provision in the future. I intend to discuss with the Centre how we can ensure that there is a wide choice of provision available to learners after the lockdown ends, both in the community learning and Cymraeg Gwaith strands, including traditional face-to-face learning, and on-line and blended learning. I intend to explore whether this initial investment in online resources and learning can result in some future savings, whilst ensuring that the Centre receives sufficient funding to ensure that they can continue to deliver, meet targets and be innovative in their Learn Welsh provision.

### **Other external partners**

My officials and I have held numerous discussions with our external partners to consider the impact of Covid-19 on their ability to deliver against *Cymraeg 2050* in the short, medium and longer term. We have also discussed a variety of issues including their future viability due to the pandemic and these discussions will continue. I will provide some examples below.

### **The Urdd**

The Urdd approached my officials to discuss the financial implications of Covid-19 particularly the loss of income streams. They were one of the first organisations to make the decision to cancel many of their activities and to close all of their residential centres until April next year. My officials have therefore worked closely with colleagues in other departments to seek funding opportunities to support the Urdd during these difficult times.

The Urdd continues to receive annual grant funding of £852,184 to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language. This funding contributes to staffing costs across Wales, the Urdd Eisteddfod and arts programme. We have discussed the need to reprioritise this funding while many of the Urdd’s staff are on the Job Retention Scheme to ensure that many of their planned activities are able to continue on a reduced level and through the development of new ways of working.

Additional capital funding of £2.75m has been provided to help address the financial difficulties the Urdd is facing due to Covid-19. This funding is made available from the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Capital Investment Fund within the Minister for Education’s portfolio, which is seen as a very exceptional case for providing 100% funding for the capital investment

programme at Glan-llyn and Llangrannog. By providing this funding, the Urdd is able to use its reserves to secure a basic level of operation within all of its departments.

An application is under consideration to the Economic Resilience Fund. The process is nearing completion and the Urdd will be informed of the outcome imminently. Officials will also maintain regular dialogue with the Urdd and explore various avenues of support to help enhance the commercial plans. For example, they are looking at using the Urdd's extensive experience and success to help encourage more girls into sport by partnering with other stakeholders.

In the meantime, the Urdd worked at pace to organise an extremely successful Eisteddfod T during what would have been the Urdd Eisteddfod week at Whitsun. Over 6,000 children, young people and their families took part in various events that were broadcasted on S4C, on-line and on BBC Radio Cymru. It attracted many new competitors and we look forward to seeing some of these new and fun competitions being incorporated into the traditional Eisteddfod in the future.

On 18 May, the Urdd also broadcasted its annual Peace and Goodwill Message where the young people of Wales asked us all to stop the clock to listen and learn from the Covid pandemic. The message was translated into 57 languages and reached 37 million across the world.

### **The National Eisteddfod**

Officials have also been in regular contact with the National Eisteddfod to discuss how Covid-19 has affected them in the short term and assess the future requirements. I was pleased to award an additional £500,000 to the National Eisteddfod to address the short term financial constraints from the postponement of the Tregaron Eisteddfod until 2021. The additional funding will allow the already established community groups in the Ceredigion area to continue activities once the Covid-19 lockdown measures are eased. The tourist and hospitality sector receives a huge boost from the thousands of visitors to the area the Eisteddfod visits and business in Tregaron and Gwynedd will be able to resume taking bookings for future dates. This will undoubtedly bring a much-needed financial boost to the areas in the after-math of Covid-19.

Eisteddfod officials are currently considering how they can work with other partners in order to make the best of the current situation. This includes hosting online events under the AmGen banner. This is an alternative to the traditional National Eisteddfod week held in August that is already underway, where a series of workshops / lectures / gigs will be held online and on TV.

We will continue to provide regular support and advice to our external partners during these unprecedented times.

### **Education MEG**

In your letter, you noted the reprioritisation of £350,000 from the Welsh in Education BEL impacting on early years provision such as Mudiad Meithrin and the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. The savings are not related to these areas of work.

Savings of £300,000 are in relation to the reduction in the grant to WJEC for textbooks to support qualifications – there are fewer new titles being developed by publishers during this

financial year which will require translating. Moving forward, there is scope within the remaining budget to continue to commission and to prioritise bilingual projects, which are deemed essential for preparing for the new curriculum. The remaining £50,000 was identified in relation to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs) from the next cycle of new local authority plans being deferred by one year. Covid-19 has meant that elements of the support package envisaged for local authorities cannot take place, such as the national WESP conference and the procurement of Welsh language and education consultants to advise local authorities on aspects of WESP implementation.

### ***Cymraeg 2050 – the future***

Although budgets beyond 2020-21 have not been confirmed, the next spending review supporting the 2021-22 budget will provide an opportunity to consider the long term plans for the organisations and assess the funding requirements to deliver *Cymraeg 2050*. The impacts of the pandemic will be integral to this review. I am keen to capture the positive developments in digital learning in future delivery and I look forward to updating the Committee in due course.

*Cymraeg 2050* is a strategy that sets out the Welsh Government's long-term vision for the Welsh language. It is inevitable that Covid-19 will affect our ability to deliver some objectives within the strategy in the short term. However, the pandemic has also offered many positive opportunities for us to deliver in new, innovative and exciting ways. Despite the challenges facing us, we are confident that we can build on the good progress made since the launch of the strategy in 2017, and a short delay will not adversely affect our progress. We look forward to drafting the second Work Programme for 2021 onwards and will take full consideration of how Covid-19 and indeed other factors such as Brexit will offer challenges but also new opportunities for us to deliver *Cymraeg 2050* in the future.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. E. Morgan'.

**Eluned Morgan AS/MS**

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol  
Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language

# Agenda Item 7

By virtue of paragraph(s) vii of Standing Order 17.42

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