



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1006  
Ein cyf/Our ref DET/02020/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS  
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02 September 2020

Dear Janet Finch-Saunders MS,

Thank you for your letter of 11 August regarding correspondence the Petitions Committee has received from Neil Bates, who is currently collecting signatures for a petition to release funding support to the culture sector to prevent local grassroots music venues from closure.

Creative Wales was officially launched in January with a small fund of £20,000 for grassroots music venues announced the same night. Four venues (two in North Wales and two in South) were awarded £5,000 each in late February through this fund.

22 music businesses were funded a total of £402k through the grassroots music relief fund which was praised for its speed and effectiveness by the industry and stakeholders such as the Music Venue Trust who spoke positively during the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee about the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on the creative industries. Full details of the awardees are available at <https://gov.wales/support-grassroots-music-venues-wales>

A series of comments from recipients was published recently and is available at <https://www.wales.com/creative-wales/grassroots-music-relief-fund>

The Creative Wales fund was the first relief finance made available to music businesses anywhere in the UK with an average turnaround from application to receiving the money of less than a week.

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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.

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This is evidence that supporting the music industry is a priority for Creative Wales. We recognise the incredibly difficult and uncertain circumstances being faced by businesses in the sector across Wales and we are committed to providing support to the industry. We have established a COVID-19 music stakeholder support group to gather intelligence on the impact of the pandemic, and to work with our partners to identify how we can best provide support in response.

The Welsh Government is investing a further £53 million to help Wales' diverse culture sector deal with the impact of the coronavirus pandemic. The Cultural Recovery Fund is intended to provide further essential support to theatres, galleries, music venues, heritage sites, museums, archive services, libraries, events and festivals, and independent cinemas who have all seen a dramatic loss of revenue due to the pandemic. Funding will support both organisations and individuals in the sector.

In order to directly target specific sub-sectors, the Cultural Recovery Fund is being delivered jointly between the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government. The Arts Council of Wales opened its fund for applications on 17 August and my officials are working to finalise scheme details for the Welsh Government's fund which will include support for grass roots music venues. We expect to have full details on how the application process will work shortly.

We will continue to engage with the music sector through our COVID stakeholder support group to help ensure the safe re-opening of our music venues as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,



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

Y Dirprwy Weinidog Diwylliant, Chwaraeon a Thwristiaeth  
Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism