

**Pwyllgor Diwylliant, Cyfathrebu, y Gymraeg,
Chwaraeon, a Chysylltiadau Rhyngwladol**

**Culture, Communications, Welsh Language,
Sport, and International Relations
Committee**

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Dawn Bowden MS

Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

Welsh Government

16 January 2024

National Theatre Wales

Dear Dawn

I am writing to you about the Arts Council of Wales's recent Investment Review and its impact on National Theatre Wales. At our meeting on 11 January 2024, our Committee considered a number of items of correspondence relating to the review process, National Theatre Wales's appeal, and the subsequent outcomes.

As you will be aware, National Theatre Wales was established by the One Wales Programme of Government in the Third Assembly, as part of a government pledge to establish a national English-language theatre. During its lifetime, it has provided some critically acclaimed, thought provoking and memorable works including "The Passion" in Port Talbot in 2011, and Roald Dahl's "City of the Unexpected" in Cardiff in 2016.

The correspondence we considered raised a number of concerns with us about how the Arts Council of Wales has approached the Investment Review, and the subsequent appeals process.

We too are concerned that the complete and rapid termination of funding for the National Theatre, before the Arts Council's review into English language theatre has taken place, could lead to long-term damage to the sector. This in turn could make the Arts Council's new plans for the sector significantly more difficult to implement. We are also worried that such an abrupt ending to the funding may lead to the loss of intellectual property, physical resources and future planned performances, despite significant millions of public money already having been invested in the National Theatre.



**Senedd Cymru
Welsh Parliament**

With that in mind, we would be grateful to receive further information from you on the matters below.

Specifically, could you please let us know whether you or any of your officials have considered, and gained reassurance, that the investment review and appeal process undertaken by the Arts Council was equitable and appropriate? If so, we would welcome an outline of the considerations relating to this.

Furthermore, and given the decision has been made to end National Theatre Wales's funding in April 2024, have you, or indeed any of your officials, given consideration to providing interim funding to National Theatre Wales? That is, either as core funding for the organisation, or production funding to enable planned English language theatrical work to take place ahead of the Arts Council's planned review into English language theatre. If so, again, we would welcome an outline of considerations that have been taken relating to this.

I would be grateful if you could consider this matter urgently and would be happy to arrange a meeting to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely,



Delyth Jewell MS
Committee Chair

Croesewir gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg neu Saesneg.

We welcome correspondence in Welsh or English.