

Rebecca Evans, MS

Minister for Finance and Trefnydd

2 July 2020

Dear Rebecca Evans,

With this morning's announcement by the UK Government of additional Council funding to face the ongoing financial pressures resulting from the Covid19 crisis, and the resulting Barnett consequential of £30million in Wales, we are writing to **urge you to set aside a sum of money to protect the arts and culture sector in Wales.**

Without action to financially protect these vital assets, there will be a serious threat of closures in the coming months. While closed, arts and cultural venues face serious ongoing losses, in some cases up to £500,000 a month, quickly depleting their reserves and burning through what little financial support they have received so far.

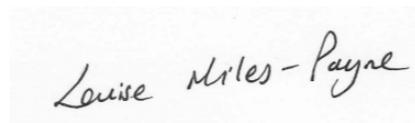
We ask this because the unique position and value of the arts and cultural sector – and its workforce – to our nation's wellbeing and economy must not be underestimated. The arts and culture have a profound impact on people's mental and physical health. Our theatres, arts centres, libraries, museums, historic buildings, and other cultural venue operators, independent makers and artists contribute hugely to making Wales a more equal, inclusive and sustainable nation. Creative activities improve our quality of life and increase the sense of community by bringing people together. We cannot allow these venues and creative programming which are at the heart of our communities to disappear.

We are conscious of the budget pressures that Welsh Government and Local Authorities are facing. However, our cultural venues and sector workforce are at risk of ceasing to operate without the necessary financial commitments to support arts and culture. When operators are forced to close, and freelancers' contracts are cancelled, it will be difficult for this vital infrastructure to be restored once the crisis is over – and a lengthy restoration process would have dire consequences for our society.

Yours Sincerely,



Mark Tweedie
Chief Executive Officer
Community Leisure UK (Wales)



Louise Miles-Payne
Director
Creu Cymru



Rebecca Evans, MS
Minister for Finance & Trefnydd
Welsh Government
5th Floor, Ty Hywel
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

2nd July 2020

Dear Rebecca,

Following the announcement of £500 million to support councils in England facing the ongoing financial pressures resulting from the Covid19 crisis, and the resulting Barnett consequential of £30million in Wales, we are keen to emphasise the serious ongoing pressures sports facilities and leisure trusts are facing.

Sport and leisure has a significant social and economic value in Wales, contributing around £1.2billion directly to the Welsh economy, and around £3.4billion in social value.

Without action to financially protect our vital sport and leisure assets in Wales, we believe there will be a serious threat of closures in the coming months as other sources of funding, such as the Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme come to an end.

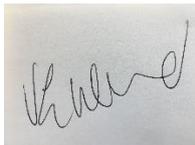
We have welcomed the funds available via the Economic Resilience Fund to some private facilities, and additional funds allocated to Sport Wales. However, with leisure providers facing serious ongoing losses, in some cases up to £500,000 a month, the existing money will quickly be exhausted.

Whilst some Local Authorities have been able to guarantee payments to their leisure providers which provides some measure of security, others have not, and we desperately need to see consistency across Wales in this regard.

There are myriad pressures on the budgets of Welsh Government, Local Authorities, Sport Wales and the leisure operators as a result of the crisis. **With the additional funding made available today we urge you to set aside a sum of money to protect the sport and leisure sector in Wales in the months to come.**

Without such action, we fear that there is a potential risk to thousands of jobs and the permanent loss of vital sport and leisure infrastructure in some of our most rural and vulnerable communities.

Your sincerely,



Victoria Ward, CEO Wales Sports Association.



Huw Edwards, CEO, UK Active



Tara Dillon, CEO, CIMSPA



Mark Tweedie, CEO Community Leisure UK (Wales)

