



Ein cyf/Our ref - MA-P/DET/0865/19

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Annwyl Rhodri

I would like to start by congratulating you on a successful and productive year for the National Library in 2018-19, which included the opening of an exhibition on the work of Kyffin Williams RA, *Tra Môr yn Fur: Wales and the Sea* exhibition (in collaboration with RCAHMW and the National Waterfront Museum); the Mostyn Season and the excellent exhibition 'Mostyn Manuscripts: A Centennial Celebration'. Glanrafon cultural complex in Haverfordwest, which has seen the Library collaborate with Pembrokeshire County Council, also represents an important development for the Library. I appreciate the opportunity it gives to enhance the Library's public profile and its engagement with the local community. In addition, I am pleased to note the Library's continuing programmes of digitisation, improving access, education and events, and the efforts you have made to engage with, and appeal to all sectors of the community.

I am grateful for the National Library's work in offering valuable support in specific areas; particularly:

- your contribution to the *Fusion: Creating opportunities through culture* programme
- your support for the *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 programme
- your role in the People's Collection Wales digital heritage programme
- the development of partnership working through Historic Wales
- providing support and leadership to the library and archive sector in Wales

The *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 programme will cease to provide funding for partners in 2019-20, and will now focus on capturing a lasting legacy as a result of this extensive period of activity. I would like to see the National Library continuing to work with the *Cymru'n Cofio* Wales Remembers 1914-1918 team to ensure this can happen.

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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.

I have also asked officials to review the People's Collection Wales programme with the aim of streamlining its activity and ensuring it remains aligned to Government priorities. As one of the key delivery partners for this programme, it is important that the National Library of Wales participates fully in this process.

In addition to the National Library's core work, as laid out in its Charter, my priority areas for the National Library in the coming year are:

- to maintain a focus on attracting new members and on improving visitor experience and income generation. This should be supported by high profile marketing and promotional activities;
- to continue with the re-development plans for public spaces at the Library;
- to plan for the redevelopment of Oriel Gregynog, achieving the standards for national bodies outlined in the Government Indemnity Scheme;
- to seek opportunities to strengthen research activity and research partnerships at the National Library, including partnerships with Higher and Post-16 educational institutions;
- to deliver and to ensure the long-term sustainability of the National Broadcast Archive, in line with the conditions outlined in my letter of February 2019;
- to offer a pro-active response to national activity in the Culture, Sport and Tourism sectors, such as the development of a strategic plan for libraries;
- to support the Visit Wales Year of Discovery and new thematic campaigns.

These priorities are outlined in more detail in Annex 1.

Annex 2 confirms the level of Grant-in-Aid funding that the Welsh Government will provide to the National Library for 2019-20, and indicative capital figures for 2020-21.

The strategic context for our work is unchanged from 2018-19. *Prosperity for All, Light Springs Through the Dark, and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act* all set out a clear framework for working that should be integrated into your operational plan.

Sponsored bodies are expected to share our values as set out in the Economic Contract which forms part of the Economic Action Plan. The Economic Contract is an important means through which we will deliver public investment with a social purpose and organisations we support should abide by its principles of inclusive growth, fair work, health and skills in the workplace and the management of carbon footprints.

You will be aware that my colleague Eluned Morgan AM, Minister for International Relations and the Welsh Language, is developing a new strategy for International Engagement. It is clear that the culture and heritage sector in Wales has a key role in helping to promote Wales, and in generating new economic and cultural opportunities. I would therefore ask that the National Library of Wales actively engages with the new strategy, further building on the existing emphasis currently reflected in Annex 1 (1.3).

Maintaining statutory responsibilities and meeting professional standards is key to demonstrating the Library is effectively caring for and developing our national collections. The Library has statutory duties and specific obligations for certain types of material under the following UK legislation:

- Public Records Act 1958, and responsibilities for other controlled classes of records
- Legal Deposit Libraries Act 2003 and the Legal Deposit Libraries (non-print works) Regulations 2013

I therefore expect the Library to maintain Archive Service Accreditation, and its status as a place of deposit under the Public Records Act 1958, and to apply for Museum Accreditation

at the same time as you renew your Archive Service Accreditation. I also encourage you to maintain and, if possible, improve your existing achievements under the Customer Service Excellence and Visit Wales standards.

During the course of 2019-20, I hope to be able to announce my response to the recommendations relating to establishing a national contemporary art gallery. Within this context, I wish to see the Library contributing to high-level partnership working and supporting activities that can bring together other areas of my portfolio, including Culture, Tourism, and the Arts.

Your charitable and Royal Charter status and the need for the National Library to act independently on a day-to-day basis is understood, and my officials and I will work with you to develop a relationship based on mutual trust and respect, and on open and honest communication.

The above should be reflected within your draft Operational Plan for 2019-20 in order for the relevant goals, targets and performance indicators within the plan to be approved.

You will be aware of the Welsh Government's desire to see partnerships with sponsored bodies moving towards a Term of Government remit. Within that context, I would like you to consider this letter as the basis for our relationship until the end of the current Term of Government in 2021.

I look forward to hearing more about your work during the coming year.

Yours sincerely,



Yr Arglwydd Elis-Thomas AC/AM

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

Annex 1: Key Deliverables

1.0 United and Connected

“Our aim is to build a nation where people take pride in their communities, in the Welsh identity and language, and our place in the world.” (Prosperity for All; page 19)

1.1 ***Prosperity for All Objective: Build resilient communities, culture and language***

Our cultural institutions have the ability to help and empower people from all backgrounds to participate in cultural life in Wales, and to support the creation of cohesive communities.

I would like the National Library of Wales to:

- Increase access to the National Library’s collections, services and resources;
- Continue to provide strategic support to the wider library sector in Wales, especially through the National Digital Library initiative.

1.2 ***Light Springs objective: Increasing participation, inclusion and engagement***

The National Library can help Wales become a creatively active nation; providing access to cultural opportunities for people from all backgrounds and reflecting the diversity of our nation.

I would like the National Library of Wales to continue to develop activities in support of the *Fusion* programme; and beyond this to:

- Encourage and increase participation in cultural activities from the broadest range of diverse audiences
- Monitor user satisfaction and incorporate user feedback into future initiatives and developments
- Build on existing digitisation programmes as a means of facilitating access to collections, but also as a means of supporting and encouraging participation and engagement.

1.3 ***Prosperity for All Objective: Promote and protect Wales’ place in the world***

The National Library has an important role to play in showcasing Wales’ vibrant culture, heritage and language to an international audience, helping to promote our nation worldwide.

I would like the National Library of Wales to:

- Maintain and develop your existing international links
- Continue to collaborate with Visit Wales to promote Wales including through your support for the ‘Year of Discovery’ in 2019
- Provide high quality digital content, services and resources to reach national and international audiences

2.0 Ambitious and Learning

“Our aim is to instil in everyone a passion to learn throughout their lives...”
(Prosperity for All; page 15)

2.1 Prosperity for All Objective: Support young people to make the most of their potential and build ambition and encourage learning for life

Cultural institutions can widen people’s horizons and lift their aspirations, offering both formal and informal learning opportunities for individuals to grow and achieve throughout their lives.

I would like the National Library of Wales to:

- Develop and deliver formal learning programmes that meet the new Curriculum for Wales;
- Seek to attract research funding and work in partnership with higher education institutions;
- Continue the creation of digital learning resources for Hwb in partnership with Amgueddfa Cymru, the Royal Commission and Cadw;
- Seek opportunities to engage with families, schools and other community audiences across Wales in a relevant and meaningful way, maximising opportunities for engaging with young people.

3.0 Prosperous and Secure

“Our aim is a Welsh economy which delivers individual and national prosperity while spreading opportunity and tackling inequality...” (Prosperity for All, page 7)

3.1 Prosperity for All Objective: Support people and businesses to drive prosperity; tackle regional inequality and fair work

Working with other organisations, staff and recognised trade unions is required to address specialist skills requirements within the wider cultural heritage sector and manage industrial relations.

I would like the National Library of Wales to:

- Continue to build on the work on sector skills undertaken in collaboration with Historic Wales’ Strategic Partnership and the archive and library sectors in Wales;
- Continue to provide strategic support to the wider archive sector in Wales, especially in the field of digital preservation;
- Continue to work with staff and recognised trade unions to strengthen and develop the Library’s workforce, with a particular focus on developing professional skills and on succession planning.

3.2 Prosperity for All Objective: Drive sustainable growth and combat climate change

The National Library is a named body under the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act. Principles of sustainability and long term thinking should underpin your organisational planning.

I would like the National Library of Wales to:

- Ensure that Welsh Government funded maintenance work and building improvements at the National Library is managed effectively and efficiently
- Continue work to increase funding from external sources to reduce your reliance on Grant-in-Aid funding from the Welsh Government
- Update the Library's carbon management plan

4.0 Healthy and Active

"Our aim is to improve health and wellbeing in Wales, for individuals, families and communities... good health is seen as a natural asset for everyone."
(Prosperity for All; page 11)

4.1 Prosperity for All Objective: Promote good health and well-being for everyone; and build healthier communities and better environments

Our cultural heritage institutions can support wider efforts to create the right conditions for better health, well-being and greater physical activity and increase social inclusion by offering opportunities for older people and people with physical and mental health conditions to engage in cultural activities.

I would like the National Library of Wales to:

- Continue to implement and grow your Volunteering Scheme;
- Engage with the Welsh Government's Loneliness and Isolation agenda.

Annex 2: Financial support

The Welsh Government will provide the following Grant-in-Aid funding to the National Library of Wales in 2019-20 to deliver the priorities outlined in this letter. Planned figures are also provided for 2020-21 (capital only). Funding levels for future years will be confirmed during the Welsh Government's usual annual Budget process.

Revenue	Budget 2019-20 £000
Revenue (gross)	10,285
Less: Library generated income	(700)
Total Revenue (net)	9,585

Non Cash	Budget 2019-20 £000
Depreciation*	1,250

**Depreciation is a non-cash item and is not available for drawdown in the course of the year*

Capital	Budget 2019-20 £000	Plan 2020-21 £000
Purchase Grant	305	305
Digital Infrastructure Grant		
Capital Maintenance	2,400	275
Total Capital	2,705	580

Terms and Conditions of Grant-in-Aid funding:

The National Library's funding agreement with the Welsh Government (the Framework Document) sets out the details of the sponsorship relationship and the terms and conditions under which the Welsh Government provides Grant-in-Aid funding to the National Library as a Welsh Government Sponsored Body. Grant-in-Aid funding is provided to the National Library under Section 61 of the Government of Wales Act 2006.

The Framework Document also sets out various operational requirements and refers to government guidance and policies with which the National Library needs to comply, in addition to its own duties and responsibilities as a Charter body, Registered Charity and public institution in Wales. As stated in the Framework Document, the Welsh Government's Museums, Archives and Libraries Division (MALD) is the sponsor division for the National Library and monitors the National Library's progress against key targets and milestones through quarterly meetings.