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Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DB/00653/23

Ashok Ahir
President,
National Library of Wales

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24 October 2023

Dear Ashok

Thank you for your letter dated 5 October regarding your arrangements to consult on potential changes to the Library's pension scheme, how you manage your relationship with unions and the protocol of attendance at Board meetings.

It appears that you are operating within the relevant rules. I would like to, however, emphasise the importance of social partnership and the need to keep unions involved in all major discussions, and in all discourse on matters which affect their members. This is something in which I strongly believe. As such, I advise that any closed meetings should be exceptional in order to create an environment of transparency.

I would also like to remind you of the statutory commitments made in the National Library of Wales' regulations which provide the Chair with the powers to limit the publication of full minutes of closed sessions, but do require the reasons for this to be noted in the published minutes.

I trust that you will find my response helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
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Deputy Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism

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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.