

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Ein cyf/Our ref DB/00086/22
Ashok Ahir
Interim President
National Library of Wales

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03 March 2022

Dear Ashok

Thank you for your correspondence dated 28 January regarding the National Library's financial position.

I also found our meeting on 13 January very constructive and I was pleased that you were positive about the funding settlement and how it will contribute to the National Library becoming financially stable. We were pleased to both confirm the Grant in Aid uplift agreed last year and to enable a further Grant in Aid uplift going forward to enable the delivery of the Culture Strategy. I understand that my officials had an opportunity to discuss with the National Library a number of the issues raised in your letter during the quarterly monitoring meeting on 16 February.

The multi-year settlement as a result of the UK Spending Review was welcomed, but it did little to undo a decade of austerity. We have maximised the levers at our disposal within our limited capital settlement, but overall capital funding for the Welsh Government as a whole falls in cash terms in each year of the three year Spending Review period and is 11 per cent lower in 2024-25 than in the current year. In spite of this the capital settlements we have proposed for our sponsored bodies over this period are higher overall than pre-pandemic levels.

Agreement of a pay settlement with unions and staff is a matter for the sponsored bodies. We expect our arm's length bodies to ensure that settlements are both reasonable and affordable within the grant in aid allocations that Welsh Government provides. I have recently noted pay remit proposals from a number of our sponsored bodies including the National Library, who assured me they are affordable within current settlements. You will be aware that the Welsh Government is committed to one public sector and a consistent approach to pay and pensions.

We will also be inviting the National Library in due course to provide proposals for additional revenue and capital funding for the next three years to deliver a number of Ministerial priorities, especially Programme for Government capital requirements.

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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 would encourage the National Library to continue to liaise with my officials on these proposals

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Dawn Bowden'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

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