

11 April 2017

Dear colleague

Arts Council of Wales: Festivals Funding

We wrote to you last year outlining some changes to the way in which we fund Festivals. This letter serves to update you on our current position and our intended way forward in the first six months of 2017/18.

Firstly may I take this opportunity to thank you for the contribution many of you made to our ongoing research into Festivals in Wales. We know that this came at a time when many of you were extremely busy during the Festival season and we value the time that you took to respond to the questions asked of you. This is helping shape a final report that will consider the ways in which we support Festivals in the future as well as our continuing dialogue with Major Events in Welsh Government and other partners involved in promoting and supporting Festivals in Wales.

Recent trends in National Lottery income are a prime concern for us. Many of you will already be aware of the significantly decreased levels of lottery being awarded to the good causes from the National Lottery. In this financial year alone we are in receipt of between 11% and 16% less income from this source than was predicted at the beginning of the financial year - down to £16m overall, an all-time low. This is a trend that is forecast to continue in the foreseeable future. As a result of our dwindling resources in this area, we have less funding available across much of our Lottery funded work.

Aside from changes resulting from our Organisational Review we will want to review our processes and procedures – the future approach to our grant giving is one area that will come be re-appraised in the coming months.

With the above in mind, we are minded that we need to continue with our position to Festivals as stated in our letter to you last April for the foreseeable future. We recognise that constraints on the funding we can make available will produce ever greater competition and an ever greater focus on meeting our strategic goals for such funding around the quality of programming approaches and content and the extending of reach and impact. This means that we will continue with the bands as presented to you at this time with funding available:

Plas Bute, Caerdydd CF10 5AL
Ffôn: 0845 8734 900
Ffacs: 029 2044 1400
SMS: 07797 800504
Ebost: gwybodaeth@celf.cymru
Gwefan: www.celf.cymru

Bute Place, Cardiff CF10 5AL
Tel: 0845 8734 900
Fax: 029 2044 1400
SMS: 07797 800504
Email: info@arts.wales
Website: www.arts.wales



Swyddfeydd Lleol/Local Offices:

Caerdydd/Cardiff, Bae Colwyn/Colwyn Bay, Caerfyrddin/Carmarthen
Rhif Elusen Gofrestredig/Registered Charity Number: 1034245

Rydym yn croesawu gohebiaeth yn y Gymraeg a'r Saesneg, ni fydd gohebu drwy gyfrwng y Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.
We welcome correspondences in Welsh and English, corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay.

up to £80,000 (available in the May and October deadlines)
up to £60,000 (available in the May and October deadlines)
up to £40,000 (available in the May and October deadlines)
up to £25,000

We ask that you bear all of this information in mind as you write an application to us, specifically requesting that, unless circumstances have radically shifted, you:

- apply within the banding you were afforded in your last grant application
- reduce your dependence on our funding in the next financial year. This means asking us for less money than you were awarded in your last application to us as well as requesting less in terms of this as a percentage of your overall income

We know that this will pose challenges to you. But we also want to reassure you that we are committed to Festivals in Wales. We recognise their importance as significant events in the lifeblood of the country and a means by which we can develop new work as well as engage new audiences. They contribute to much more than simply the cultural sector and we want to develop a mechanism going forward that will enable us to bring the most benefit to this sector locally as well as nationally.

We will be in touch in due course to let you know of any further changes we need to make as a result of both the research report and the internal reorganisation.

Yours sincerely



David Alston
Arts Director