



**Cynulliad Cenedlaethol Cymru
The National Assembly for Wales**

**Y Pwyllgor Cymunedau a Diwylliant
The Communities and Culture Committee**

**Dydd Mercher, 19 Tachwedd 2008
Wednesday, 19 November 2008**

Cynnwys
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Cofnodir y trafodion hyn yn yr iaith y llefarwyd hwy ynndi yn y pwyllgor. Yn ogystal,
cynhwysir cyfieithiad Saesneg o gyfraniadau yn y Gymraeg.

These proceedings are reported in the language in which they were spoken in the committee.
In addition, an English translation of Welsh speeches is included.

Aelodau'r pwyllgor yn bresennol
Committee members in attendance

Peter Black	Democratiaid Rhyddfrydol Cymru Welsh Liberal Democrats
Paul Davies	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Nerys Evans	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales
Janice Gregory	Llafur (Cadeirydd y Pwyllgor) Labour (Committee Chair)
Lesley Griffiths	Llafur Labour
Mark Isherwood	Ceidwadwyr Cymreig Welsh Conservatives
Ann Jones	Llafur (yn dirprwyo ar ran Joyce Watson) Labour (substitute for Joyce Watson)
David Lloyd	Plaid Cymru The Party of Wales

Swyddogion Gwasanaeth Seneddol y Cynulliad yn bresennol
Assembly Parliamentary Service officials in attendance

Neil Cox	Gwasanaeth Ymchwil yr Aelodau Members' Research Service
Lara Date	Clerc Clerk
Gwyn Griffiths	Cynghorydd Cyfreithiol y Pwyllgor Legal Adviser to the Committee
Annette Millett	Dirprwy Glerc Deputy Clerk

Dechreuodd y cyfarfod am 9 a.m.
The meeting began at 9 a.m.

Cyflwyniad, Ymddiheuriadau a Dirprwyon
Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

[1] **Janice Gregory:** Good morning. Welcome to the Communities and Culture Committee. I remind Members to switch off any BlackBerrys, pagers, telephones or any other electronic devices that they may have on their persons. I welcome the people in the public gallery. I remind you that the simultaneous translation from Welsh to English can be found on channel 1 on the headsets, and channel 0 provides an amplification of the sound. I am advised that there will not be a fire drill this morning, so, if an alarm should sound, you will be asked to leave the building in an orderly and safe fashion. Please be guided by our ushers who will direct you to the nearest safe exit and assembly point.

[2] I have received apologies from Lynne Neagle and Joyce Watson, and I am delighted to welcome Ann Jones, who is here to substitute for Joyce this morning. We will move to a private session for the latter part of the meeting, to discuss our recommendations from the domestic abuse inquiry.

9.01 a.m.

**Ymchwiliad Craffu—Hyrwyddo Celfyddydau a Diwylliant Cymru ar
Lwyfan y Byd
Scrutiny Inquiry—Promoting Welsh Arts and Culture on the World Stage**

[3] **Janice Gregory:** Item 2 is the new scrutiny inquiry for this committee. We agreed this in our meeting of 24 September, and Members will recall why we decided to undertake this work as our next inquiry. This morning, I need to ask you to agree the terms of reference and the draft work programme and to consider possible witnesses. You will have been sent a paper prior to this meeting and I am sure that, as always, you will have gone through it. If you had any comments to make, I am sure that we would have received them by now. I hope that we have agreement on this inquiry. Does anyone have any comments to make now? If not, we can look at paper 1 and go through it in some detail. Does anyone have a comment to make on the terms of reference, or are we all in agreement?

[4] **Peter Black:** The fourth point on page 2 is the development of a statutory cultural duty on Welsh local authorities, which is a ‘One Wales’ commitment that has not yet been delivered. Are we to treat that as pre-legislative scrutiny of how that would work, or will we look at it in a specific way?

[5] **Janice Gregory:** I think that we need to look at it in a specific way and, undoubtedly, that will fit in with any—

[6] **Peter Black:** Yes, but we still need to look at how that is to work, do we not?

[7] **Janice Gregory:** Yes.

[8] **Peter Black:** We may want to get the Minister in to explain that.

[9] **Janice Gregory:** We can do that. We will discuss the possible witnesses in a second.

[10] **Peter Black:** I understand that, but I just thought that it would be useful to put that point on record.

[11] **Janice Gregory:** Yes, that is a very relevant point.

[12] **Mr Cox:** The issue with the cultural duty is whether it will create any delay in the British Council’s work in Wales, so the strategies will need to be aligned.

[13] **Peter Black:** We also need to ascertain local government’s and the Assembly Government’s views, so that we can make recommendations in respect of those before the legislation comes on board. I think that that might be useful, although, of course, I do not propose that we do away with the Stage 1 committee.

[14] **Janice Gregory:** You make a very relevant point.

[15] **Peter Black:** I always do. [*Laughter.*]

[16] **Janice Gregory:** We will take it on board. Does anyone else have anything to say on the terms of reference? Are we content, other than that? I take it that you do not want to strengthen that item in the terms of reference, Peter, and that it was just a point of clarification.

[17] **Peter Black:** I think that the way in which it is worded gives us some latitude, does it not?

[18] **Janice Gregory:** Yes, it does.

[19] **Peter Black:** So, you could make some specific recommendations on how it should work within that.

[20] **Janice Gregory:** Okay, that is fine. Ann, I see that you want to come in.

[21] **Ann Jones:** Wearing my other hat as Chair of the Committee on Equality of Opportunity, may I just ask that you take a look at equality of opportunity for people to take part in the arts? Although I probably will not be on the committee at that time, could you bear in mind the equality of opportunity element of how people access the arts? That would be good.

[22] **Janice Gregory:** Yes, thank you for that, which is another important point. Other than that, are we content with the terms of reference? I see that we are. Thank you very much.

[23] Is everyone content with the proposed programme? If so, it will mean that we will have agreed the terms of reference and the programme today, and we will then be looking at a Plenary debate in May 2009. Is everyone happy with that? I see that you are. I did not have a problem with the programme.

[24] I have looked at the possible witnesses, and, given Peter's comments, perhaps we should invite the Welsh Local Government Association.

[25] **Peter Black:** We should invite the WLGA if we are to look at that specific duty. Local government is also a key player in this regard, because of the money that it spends on the arts.

[26] **Janice Gregory:** You are absolutely right. We will also include the Minister, of course. Are there any other thoughts as to who we can have as witnesses? The list of witnesses and consultees is not set in stone, so, if Members think of anyone at 3 a.m. please write it down, and e-mail it to me, but not at 3 a.m..

[27] **Peter Black:** Of all of the relevant organisations, it strikes me that the Welsh National Opera travels the world more than most. It is on the list of witnesses for written evidence, and I would not advocate inviting it to come to committee, but it might be worth looking at its written evidence to see whether there is anything interesting that might be worth asking about.

[28] **Janice Gregory:** We will put a star next to the WNO.

[29] **Ann Jones:** Would you consider looking at organisations that promote the arts within an area, rather than the Arts Council of Wales, and get a view from them?

[30] **Janice Gregory:** Yes, this committee is keen to drill right down to the grass-roots level.

[31] **Ann Jones:** It could be a theatre group that is not listed here, and we could ask it how it feels about the issue.

[32] **Janice Gregory:** That is a good idea, Ann.

[33] **Nerys Evans:** Byddwn yn argymhell holi pobl sydd wedi cael y profiad o questioning people who have had the

gynrychioli Cymru dramor yn llwyddiannus, a phobl sydd wedi ceisio gwneud hynny yn aflwyddiannus. Gallem holi eu barn am ddiffygion y system bresennol. Ni wn sut i fynd ati i wneud hynny, fodd bynnag, oherwydd gall fod cannoedd ohonynt.

experience of representing Wales abroad successfully, and people who have tried to do so without success. We could ask them what they think are the flaws of the current system. I do not know how we would go about that, though, as there could be hundreds of them.

[35] **Janice Gregory:** We cannot have everyone, and I am sure that we might be able to get a list of them. I am looking at Neil.

[36] **Mr Cox:** I missed the beginning of Nerys's contribution, sorry.

[37] **Nerys Evans:** Byddai'n ddiddorol cael mewnbwn gan bobl sydd wedi cynrychioli Cymru dramor yn y maes hwn, ac efallai gan bobl sydd wedi ceisio gwneud hynny heb lwyddiant, i gael gwybod am eu profiadau o'r broses.

[38] **Nerys Evans:** It would be interesting to have an input from people who have represented Wales abroad in this area, and perhaps from people who have tried to do so but without success, to learn about their experiences of the process.

[39] **Janice Gregory:** I do not think that that would be that difficult, Neil, because there is bound to be a record somewhere of who has done it and perhaps who has tried to do it. We need some local knowledge on this, so if anyone knows of someone who tried and could not do it, please say so. There is plenty of time to do that work and come up with someone who wants to or would be prepared to come to speak to the committee.

[40] **Mr Cox:** We will, hopefully, get guidance on that from the written consultation, the deadline of which is 12 January. It might be a good idea to ask who else it might be worth inviting to come in to speak to us.

[41] **Peter Black:** It also occurs to me that the organisations that promote arts and culture the greatest throughout Wales are the broadcasters, and they are also on the list on the proposed consultees.

9.10 a.m.

[42] However, the BBC probably commissions far more than any of the other broadcasting organisations in Wales; it is on the list of proposed consultees, and it might be worth inviting it to the committee to ask about its approach to this and for any suggestions it might have about how we can make its job easier.

[43] **Janice Gregory:** We can also ask about what works and what does not. All the suggestions have been written down. In addition, as I said, this is not set in stone, so if anyone has any other ideas, please let us know as soon as possible, so that we can consider them and fit them into the programme. The call for evidence will be issued next week and it will be posted on the committee's website, but that can be amended as we go through the process. Neil has given us some further background on this item, which was incredibly useful, as always. Does anyone want to ask Neil any questions about his paper, which is annex 1? If not, I repeat that if you have any questions at a future date that you need to ask me, the clerking team or Neil, please feel free to do so. This will be an interesting inquiry, and I am looking forward to it. Does anyone else have any comments before I close this particular part of the meeting? Are we all broadly content?

[44] **Mark Isherwood:** On consultees, should we invite representatives of the theatres, particularly those that try to attract more than a local audience or take their productions out on the road?

- [45] **Mr Cox:** I think that we have identified some of them.
- [46] **Peter Black:** There is, for example, a production company at the Grand Theatre, Swansea—
- [47] **Mark Isherwood:** Clwyd Theatr Cymru puts on productions in London and Cardiff.
- [48] **Peter Black:** The Grand Theatre in Swansea has its own production company.
- [49] **Janice Gregory:** We do not want to make it too—
- [50] **Peter Black:** They could be part of the written consultation.
- [51] **Janice Gregory:** Okay. We will have a look at the theatre companies at the coalface, so to speak. Have you got that, Neil? I see that you have.
- [52] **Mark Isherwood:** I should say that my wife is the chair of the Clwyd Theatr Cymru board.
- [53] **Janice Gregory:** That is all right—she will not be coming down, will she? It would be nice to see Hilary again.
- [54] I now draw this item to a close. As always, if there are any additional comments, please ensure that you get them to us as soon as possible, so that we can include them. Are you happy, Neil? Do you want to expand on anything?
- [55] **Mr Cox:** No, that is fine.
- [56] **Janice Gregory:** That is great. Thank you all very much.

9.13 a.m.

Cynnig Trefniadol Procedural Motion

[57] **Janice Gregory:** We will now move into private session to agree the report and discuss the recommendations.

[58] I propose that

the committee resolves to exclude the public from the remainder of the meeting in accordance with Standing Order No. 10.37(vi).

[59] I see that the committee is in agreement.

*Derbyniwyd y cynnig.
Motion carried.*

*Daeth rhan gyhoeddus y cyfarfod i ben am 9.13 a.m.
The public part of the meeting ended at 9.13 a.m.*