

Arts and culture

Introduction

The findings of the Arts Council of Wales' Arts in Wales Surveyⁱ shows high levels of support for the arts in Wales, recognition of the significance of the arts to the lives of the people of Wales and the importance of continued public funding.

- ◆ 78 per cent of people in Wales believe that there should be public funding for the arts.
- ◆ 76 per cent support the view that arts and culture make Wales a better place to live.
- ◆ 76 per cent of the adult population attend an arts event once a year or more.
- ◆ There are greater levels of participation and attendances amongst the higher socio economic grades.

The Creative Industries accounted for 7.3% of gross added value in the UK in 2004ⁱⁱ.

The Arts Council of Wales (ACW) is the principal agency for implementing the policy of promoting and developing the arts in Wales. The Arts Council is issued with a Remit Letterⁱⁱⁱ annually as a key part of the Assembly Government's sponsorship arrangements.

In July 2005, the Culture Minister created a Culture Board. As part of their remit, the Culture Board will oversee the development of a new Culture Strategy^{iv}.

Overview of current statutory powers of the Assembly

"Culture" is Field 3 of Schedule 5 of the *Government of Wales Act 2006*. This means that the National Assembly for Wales can seek Measure-making powers over cultural matters through Legislative Competence Orders.

The following secondary legislation responsibilities of the Second Assembly will transfer to Welsh Ministers in the Third Assembly:

- ◆ All activities of the Arts Council of Wales.
- ◆ Funding of cultural and artistic activities.

Matters reserved to the UK Government, but which are related to the portfolio include:

- ◆ Intellectual property, patents, trademarks and copyright.
- ◆ The National Lottery, except as regards certain activities of the distribution bodies.
- ◆ The media and broadcasting, including broadcasting in the Welsh language and the activities of Sianel Pedwar Cymru (S4C).

Forthcoming EU and UK primary legislation

- ◆ The Digital Switchover (Disclosure of Information) Bill was introduced on 16 November 2006.
- ◆ The Heritage Protection White Paper was published on 8 March 2007.

EU policy

The European Union aims to preserve and support Europe's cultural diversity and to help make it accessible to others.

- ◆ The *Communication on Culture* focuses on the economy of culture, intercultural dialogue, digitisation of cultural heritage and on how arts and culture can help to connect the citizens and the EU.
- ◆ The €400 million *Culture 2007-2013* Programme is designed to promote the mobility of workers in the field of culture, foster intercultural dialogue, and promote the cross-border circulation of works of art and culturally significant objects.
- ◆ The €755 million *Media 2007-2013* Programme is designed to support Europe's film industry.
- ◆ 2008 is the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue.

Key Assembly Government strategy documents and action plans from the Second Assembly:

- ◆ *Cymru Greadigol – Creative Futures*^v is the Welsh Assembly Government's 10 year culture strategy, published in February 2002.

Legacy issues from the Second Assembly

The Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee's legacy paper^{vi} highlighted the following arts issues for the attention of the Third Assembly:

- ◆ The report of the Stephens Review to be taken forward.
- ◆ Development of a national English language theatre for Wales.
- ◆ Development of a national gallery of art for Wales.
- ◆ Support for the National Museum Wales' plans which include a national museum of art.
- ◆ Strengthening the publishing industry in Wales.
- ◆ Implementing recommendations from the Committee's reports on Welsh writing in English, Dance, the Contribution of the Arts and Sport to Community Regeneration, and Football.

Useful links

1. The section of the Welsh Assembly Government website covering the Arts:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/arts/?lang=en>
2. The section of the Welsh Assembly Government website covering the Culture Board for Wales:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/CultureBoard/?lang=en>
3. Arts Council of Wales:
<http://www.artswales.org.uk/>
4. Wales Art Review (Stephens Review) website:
<http://new.wales.gov.uk/walesarts/?lang=en>
5. Final report to the Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee from the Arts Council of Wales:
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/documents/cms/2/CultureWelshLanguageAndSportCommittee/N0000000000000000000000000000007/402021ef5f672ed1df0cfe1cfd81346a.pdf>
6. Arts Policy debate in plenary on 1 February 2006:
<http://www.wales.gov.uk/cms/2/ChamberSession/380313AC00046B17000028C300000000/N000000000000000000000000000040590.htm>

Further information

For further information on any aspect of the arts, please contact:

Neil Cox in the Members' Research Service on ext. 8007

Neil.cox@wales.gsi.gov.uk

ⁱ Arts Council of Wales, 10 November 2005, *Arts in Wales*

<http://www.artswales.org.uk/publications/Arts%20in%20Wales%20with%20Foreword%20by%20Minister%20&%20Chair.pdf>

ⁱⁱ Arts Council of Wales, 30 March 2007, Arts Council of Wales Facts and Figures 2007:

<http://www.artswales.org.uk/publication.asp?id=565>

ⁱⁱⁱ Welsh Assembly Government, 24 February 2007, Arts Council of Wales Remit Letter

<http://new.wales.gov.uk/about/departments/dlhc/localgovculturepubs/CSpublications/ACWRemit0708?lang=en>

^{iv} The Culture Board covers a broad cultural remit and includes the Chairs and Chief Executives of the Arts Council of Wales, National Library of Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales as **Members as well as** representatives from the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGAs) and the Welsh Books Council.

^v Welsh Assembly Government, January 2002, *Cymru Greadigol – Creative Futures*

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/cultureandsport/Culture_publications/583637/?lang=en

^{vi} 14 March 2007, Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee, CWLS (2) 04-07 (p3)