

16 March 2023

Dear

## **ATISN 17185 – Cultural Recovery Fund**

### **Information requested:**

Thank you for your request which I received on 21 February 2023. You asked:

*Following your response on ATISN 17092, can you explain how and where was the Cultural Recovery Fund publicised? Please supply full details and dates on where information of this fund could be found.*

*I have spoken to three food festival organisers who know nothing at all about the CRF. One organiser in particular searched and searched looking for funding support for their festival but found nothing at all about CRF.*

*I am therefore assuming that Cywain, who are working for Wag on food festivals, were not asked or paid to circulate details of the CRF to their festival organisers.*

### **Our response:**

The Cultural Recovery Fund, along with all other Covid-19 related advice, guidance and support schemes, was extensively published through Welsh Government communication channels throughout 2020 – 2022. This included a number of press release and written statements by Ministers, all of which were published on gov.wales and WG social media channels. These included the following key publications:

30 July 2020 – [Written Statement](#) by Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport & Tourism announces launch of Cultural Recovery Fund

1 September 2020 – Press release: [Find out if you are eligible for support from the Cultural Recovery Fund](#)

14 September 2020 – Press release: [Cultural Recovery Fund - Open for applications](#)

11 November 2020 - [Written Statement](#) by Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport & Tourism announces additional funding

22 March 2021 – Press Release: [Cultural Recovery Fund extended](#) and [written statement](#) by Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport & Tourism announcing a further [2<sup>nd</sup>] phase of the CRF

12 January 2022 - [Written Statement](#) by Deputy Minister Arts, Sport, and Chief Whip announcing CRF Round 3

31 January 2022 – Press release: [Wales CRF3 opens to new entrants](#)

All information regarding the CRF, including the eligibility checker, [detailed guidance and criteria](#) and application forms were also published on the Welsh Government's Business Wales platform <https://businesswales.gov.wales/coronavirus-covid-19> and social media channels, including [Business Wales \(@ businesswales\) / Twitter](#) Information was also available via the Business Wales helpline on 03000 6 03000. Visit Wales promoted all Covid-19 support funds, including all rounds of CRF and press releases listed above, via their regular newsletter to subscribers across the tourism industry also.

The aim of the fund was to help protect sustainable organisations and as many jobs in the culture sector as possible. The parts of the sector eligible for the fund included music venues, heritage organisations and sites, museums, archives, libraries, independent cinemas and events which aligned with the Welsh Government Wellbeing Goals and Event Wales' published [strategy](#) and [funding criteria](#) at that time.

As most food festivals are primarily local business to consumer sales events these would not have been eligible for the CRF and no specific engagement was undertaken with food industry bodies such as Cywain or Menter a Busnes. In previous years Menter a Busnes have been contracted to administer the Food Festivals Funding Scheme on behalf of Food Division. Due to Covid restrictions over the period 2020-21 and 2021-22 however Food Division could not run the Food Festival Funding Scheme. Food producers and related organisations seeking Covid-19 financial support would therefore have been advised to check their eligibility for the wider business sector Economic Resilience Fund which ran multiple rounds of support throughout 2020-2022.

Additionally, the Minister for Economy, Transport & North Wales published a new [Economic Resilience and Reconstruction Mission](#) on 23 February 2021 which included an announcement of a further £30 million of emergency financial support for, for small, medium and large businesses in the hospitality, leisure and tourism sector and related supply chain to cover operating cost grants for sector specific businesses affected by ongoing coronavirus restrictions. A total of almost £36million was awarded to over 3,000 businesses in the food and drink manufacturing and service industry under this Sector Specific Scheme.

Yours sincerely,