



Llenyddiaeth
Cymru
Literature
Wales



Yr Academi
Gymreig
The Welsh
Academy

Memorandum of Understanding Between Literature Wales and the Welsh Academy

For the time period 2016/17

This document recognises the shared interests and aims of Literature Wales and The Welsh Academy and sets out both organisations' intentions to collaborate and share information as fully as possible, in order to better achieve our shared aims.

Lobbying Declaration

The Welsh Academy has expressed an interest to lobby in support of key issues affecting the literary and creative writers of Wales and their work. The Welsh Academy is independent in its management and activity and its political lobbying and statements do not reflect the opinion or position of Literature Wales in any way.

Background and History of Relationship

Yr Academi Gymreig/The Welsh Academy was founded in 1959 on the basis of conversations between Bobi Jones and Waldo Williams. Following its inaugural meeting in 1960, the society's first aim and objective was to establish a new Welsh-language literary periodical. The first edition of *Taliesin* was published by Yr Academi Gymreig in 1961. An English-language section to the society was created in 1968 through an initiative by Meic Stephens in association with the Guild of Welsh Writers.

In 1998 the society took on a much enhanced role when it won the Arts Council of Wales' franchise to provide a Welsh National Literature Promotion Agency. This Agency was named Academi. The much-changed and enlarged Academi which emerged delivered literary provision across Wales until 2011, when it joined with Tŷ Newydd Writers' Centre to form a new national organisation known as Literature Wales.

The Welsh Academy, as the national Society of Writers in Wales, retained its unique identity within Academi. This identity continued to be safeguarded when the Academi was developed to be Literature Wales. While Literature Wales does provide administrative support to The Welsh Academy, a management relationship does not exist between them and both organisations' decision making processes, management and activity are independent of each other.

The Welsh Academy

The Welsh Academy exists to:

- Celebrate the achievements of the creative and literary writers of Wales;
- Lobby in support of key issues affecting such writers and their work;
- Foster the community of such writers within Wales;
- Provide such writers with advocacy support;

- Support the development of such writers in their careers.

Literature Wales

Literature Wales is the national company for the development of literature and as such, is the foremost sector facilitator and originator of literary activity within Wales.

Literature Wales believes that literature belongs to everybody and can be found everywhere. As an organisation we work collaboratively, bilingually and in a wide range of communities to make sure that literature is a voice for all.

We believe in empowering people, groups and communities by supporting them and giving them the tools to develop literature programmes, events and schemes in their local areas. Literature can change, improve and enhance people's lives. It contributes to better skills, employability, health and engagement with society. Literature Wales places literature at the heart of the well-being, literacy, employment and skills agendas and will strive for literature to be seen as a vital part of a balanced, engaged and healthy life.

Literature Wales' new Business Plan outlines Writer Support as a key strategic aim:

Writer Support

Developing and supporting writers at every stage of the writing journey to achieve their full potential

We will:

- *Offer support for writers so that they can reach excellence*
- *Encourage writers to be innovative and experimental in their work*
- *Develop specific practical and developmental opportunities for young writers*

Literature Wales views The Welsh Academy as a key partner to deliver these aims in the following ways:

- Fostering a strong, active and connected literary community within Wales.
- Actively encouraging engagement, collaboration and membership from new and emerging writers, across literary genres.

To these ends, Literature Wales commits to providing support and resource at the following level:

- In-kind, bilingual administrative support for up to two committee meetings per year (support includes all communications, staffing of meetings, agenda and meeting preparation, minutes and cost neutral venue provision).
- Basic administration of membership subscription (Full Members and Fellows only; including financial processing and reporting).
- Act as a point of contact for The Welsh Academy committee members.
- Act as intermediary between The Welsh Academy members/interested writers about TWA matters.

- Enable The Welsh Academy to commission an external consultant to research and prepare a Sustainable Business Model using a maximum budget of £5,000 from the Glyn Jones bequest fund

The financial arrangements are as follows:

- Literature Wales to be paid a fee of 50% of Full Member and Fellow subscriptions up to the sum of £2,500 as a contribution to administration costs. The Welsh Academy to control all remaining funds as their annual budget.
- The Welsh Academy to cover all costs not provided in-kind by Literature Wales (e.g. catering, venue hire, simultaneous translation, committee and speaker travel to meetings and events, writer fees).
- The Welsh Academy committee to take in-house responsibility for all activity and event planning, delivery, direct marketing and evaluation; and for any subscription drives and renewal reminders.

Both partners commit to:

- Keeping each other fully aware of respective activities and events to ensure that these activities do not conflict with each other in terms of content, dates or audiences, but rather complement and strengthen each other.
- Identifying ways in which the partners can work together to better achieve shared aims, in terms of information sharing, complementary marketing/publicity and where practicable, resource sharing.
- Meeting biannually, to update each other on business plan changes, status of projects and plans, and to share useful information and best practice.
- Supporting each other's activities with letters of support, useful contacts and marketing where appropriate.
- Where mutually beneficial and appropriate, working together on activity and events.
- Reviewing this Memorandum of Understanding annually to make sure that it is still fit for purpose.

Signed on behalf of The Welsh Academy and Literature Wales: June 2016