

Literature Wales Writer Commissions:

In partnership with the Royal College of Psychiatrists



With the UK coronavirus lockdown extended until further notice, Literature Wales' offices are closed, and much of our activity is postponed. However, our commitment to **inspiring communities, developing writers and celebrating Wales' literary culture** remains as strong as ever.

On 1 April, we announced a round of funding for freelance writers to devise and create original [digital content and projects for audiences](#). We are pleased to announce a second round of funding in partnership with the **Royal College of Psychiatrists in Wales**. The main focus for this second round of commissions is **health and wellbeing**, however other digital content and projects with a strong participatory strand are also eligible.

We are fully aware that this is an intensely worrying time, both in terms of our mental and physical well-being as individuals and communities, and especially so for those who rely on freelance income. This call-out is intended to allow freelance writers to **continue to receive paid work** during this uncertain time. In addition, the content created will address health and wellbeing challenges through literature and creative writing; and **entertain, inspire and educate creative audiences, early career writers and participants** across Wales.

We encourage writers to be creative and suggest content and projects they believe will be of most value, however in the **Guidance and FAQ's** section towards the end of this document, you will find information to assist you to develop your expression of interest. This includes the

aims of these commissions; recommendations for the target audiences and suggestions of possible content/projects and platforms; and information about literature and health & wellbeing.

Deadline for Expressions of Interest:
12.00 noon on Monday 18 May

What's Available:

There are 10 commissions available worth £500 each.

Writers can apply for one commission only, however you are welcome to submit an expression of interest individually, in pairs or as a collective.

Eligibility Criteria

All **Wales-based freelance writers** are eligible for this opportunity, excluding the following:

- Those who have received a fee from Literature Wales in the last two months.
- Those who are already in receipt of any regular funding from Literature Wales.

The selection panel will consider many elements during the decision-making process, including prioritising those who identify with at least one of our Target Client Characteristics (individuals on low income, individuals from a BAME background, individuals with disabilities or illnesses (mental and physical)); investing in potential rather than experience; and linguistic and geographical balance.

The Literature Wales Strategic Plan 2019-2022 is available [here](#). We recommend reading this in advance of submitting your application.

Please find further details on eligibility in the FAQ section below.

How to apply

To express your interest in this opportunity, please complete the [application form here](#) (if you would like to read the application form before attempting to fill it in, [you can do so here](#)). You will be asked to upload an Equality and Diversity Monitoring Form ([available here](#)).

You are welcome to confirm your expression of interest, or contact us with any questions by emailing post@literaturewales.org, with Writer Commissions May 2020 and your name in the subject line.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted by:
12.00 noon on Monday 18 May

What Happens Next

Successful expressions of interest will be **selected and confirmed with each writer by Friday 22 May**. At this point, Literature Wales will confirm the exact funding offered, and will agree a completion date with each writer. Writers will be paid in advance upon receipt of a signed contract.

Literature Wales is a registered charity and works with the support of the Arts Council of Wales and the Welsh Government. Please see www.literaturewales.org for further information.

The Royal College of Psychiatrists Wales is the professional medical and educational body for psychiatry, promoting excellence in mental healthcare. Please see www.rcpsych.ac.uk/wales for further information.

Guidance & FAQ's

Aims & Objectives:

- To provide freelance writers paid work in a time where they face economic uncertainty as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic
- To provide activities and/or entertaining content which could benefit the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities in Wales
- To entertain, delight and educate clients and audiences with engaging literary content
- To provide opportunities for early career writers and creative audiences to develop or learn new skills (in the absence of usual Literature Wales activity including participation work and Tŷ Newydd courses)
- To use digital platforms to bring creative audiences and communities together through literature

Recommended audiences to target:

- Individuals who identify with LW's Target Client Characteristics (these are individuals from BAME backgrounds; on low income; with disabilities or illnesses (mental and physical))
- Groups who might benefit from literary activity to help with their health and wellbeing, including but not restricted to people facing particular mental health challenges including bereavement and/or loneliness; carers; older people; those living with addiction.
- Those who read, view and consume literature (Creative Audiences)
- Participants booked onto cancelled Tŷ Newydd Courses, and past participants
- People self-isolating looking for mental stimulation
- Children and Young People
- Early Career Writers

Suggested content and platforms:

- Online creative writing courses / shorter tutorials
- Online participation activities / games / writing prompts for a specific group
- Closed digital workshops for vulnerable groups
- Podcast series on literature / creative writing
- Written or video resources providing information and advice for writers (e.g. how to secure an agent, self-promotion for writers, how to set-up and run a writing squad)
- Devising a digital campaign which engages writers and audiences
- Devising and administrating a digital networking group for writers

Literature and Health & Wellbeing

Literature is frequently used therapeutically, as preventative, palliative and curative medicine for some illnesses and disabilities. Clinical trials where creative writing and reading are prescribed have strongly supported a range of tangible well-being outcomes including decreased depressive symptoms, decreased risk of dementia and increased life expectancy. Cumulatively, potential outcomes of literature and creative writing contribute to improved well-being for individuals, our society, economy and culture. Increased self-confidence leading to an increased sense of self-worth and identity are crucial steps to increased employability, social mobility and vibrancy of our national cultural narrative.

FAQ's

What is the purpose of these commissions?

The purpose of these commissions is two-fold. Firstly, to provide **paid work to freelance writers** who are facing significant loss of income because of cancelled or postponed activity during this uncertain time. Secondly to address health and wellbeing challenges through literature and creative writing; and **entertain, inspire and educate creative audiences, early career writers and participants** across Wales.

How much can I apply for?

Each commission is a fixed fee of £500, inclusive of VAT and any expenses. There are 10 commissions available.

Who can apply for these commissions?

Any freelance writers based in Wales, excluding those included in the **Who isn't eligible** section below.

Those who are not registered Self Employed, are not in full time education and currently have no regular income are also free to apply.

Who isn't eligible?

- Writers who have received a fee from Literature Wales for work contracted to take place between 15 March 2020 and 15 June 2020. These fees include (but aren't limited to) the following:
 - Literature Wales Writer's Bursary
 - Fee for Literature and Wellbeing Funding scheme
 - Tŷ Newydd Tutor Fee (including online workshops or cancellation fee)
- Those in receipt of regular funding from Literature Wales, for instance the National Poet of Wales, Children's Laureate Wales, and Bardd Plant Cymru.

What kind of digital project / content is eligible?

We are looking for digital projects / content which will inspire individuals and communities through active participation in literature. For further information about Literature Wales' Participation activity pillar, please see our [Strategic Plan 2019-2022](#).

Applications which show clear consideration for the **Aims & Objectives** and **Recommended audiences to target** in the **Guidance** section above will have the best chance of success.

What kind of digital project / content isn't eligible?

- Personal projects or content, such as writing a novel/short story/essay.
- Projects or content which do not have a digital element at their core.
- Projects or content which do not have a participatory element or are not created for an audience.
- Projects or content which are too similar to those already delivered or are being delivered currently, whether by Literature Wales, other organisations in the literature and arts sector, or independently by writers and literary practitioners.
- Projects that don't have literature and/or creative writing at their core.

How are the EOI assessed?

The selection panel consists of representatives from the organisations funding these commissions. The panel includes individuals from a variety of linguistic and ethnic backgrounds and represent expertise in different areas of our work including communications, participation, writer development, monitoring and evaluation, representation and equality, health and wellbeing.

Each EOI is presented to the panel anonymously, who then assess each proposed project/content based on its own potential or merit.

If I am not eligible for this opportunity, or my proposed content / project doesn't fit the criteria, what other support can Literature Wales provide, or who else can I approach for funding?

Literature Wales is aiming to announce further Writer Development opportunities in the summer.

In the meantime, for those in immediate need, the following organisations may be useful:

Arts Council of Wales

The Arts Council of Wales has announced its support for individuals through its Urgent Response Fund. This fund includes financial support from the Arts Council of Wales, Welsh Government, Tŷ Cerdd, Literature Wales and the Freelands Foundation. The deadline for the second round of funding is Wednesday 6 May 2020: <https://arts.wales/urgent-response-fund-for-individuals>

The Society of Authors

The Authors Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS), the Royal Literary Fund (RLF), the T S Eliot Foundation in partnership with English PEN, and Amazon UK have contributed financial resources to create the Authors' Emergency Fund, to help support authors impacted financially by the growing health crisis.

<https://www.societyofauthors.org/Grants/contingency-funds>

Royal Literary Fund

The Royal Literary Fund is a UK charity that has been helping authors since 1790. It provides grants and pensions to writers in financial difficulty: <https://www.rlf.org.uk/>