



1 February 2021

Dear First Minister,

Re: National Library of Wales

On behalf of the Executive Committee of Llafur: Welsh People's History Society, we write to add our support to the calls for the Welsh Government to implement a fair funding settlement for the National Library of Wales.

We note that the recent independent Tailored Review, which was facilitated by the Welsh Government, stated that it did "not consider the current funding situation to be sustainable". We are extremely concerned that over the past ten years, the National Library of Wales has seen a reduction of 40% in its income and a 23% drop in its staff, with a further 30 jobs under threat.

The National Library houses some of the country's most important collections: it is the treasury of Wales' rich culture and heritage. It has a vital role in not only collecting and preserving these collections, but making them accessible to the people of Wales and beyond.

Llafur was formed in 1970 to promote and encourage the knowledge and study of all aspects of people's history in Wales. Llafur believes that history does not just inform us of the past, but that it can also illuminate our understanding of the present, and help shape our future. We are therefore particularly concerned that the National Library should be accessible, not only to scholars, but to all. It is imperative that the National Library continues to support academic research and delivers activities that encourage an interest in history from a grass-roots perspective, interpreting the rich collections it holds by providing accessible and creative ways of engaging with the past. The Library's staff have considerable knowledge and expertise and, through their engagement with researchers and through the exhibitions and events they have held, have stimulated learning and research. This cannot and should not be lost.

We urge you to implement a fair funding settlement for the National Library and safeguard the Library's future.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Rees

Chair

Sian Williams

Secretary

pp. Llafur: Welsh People's History Society