



Sir Chris Bryant
Minister of State (Department for Culture, Media and Sport)
By Email

Ellie Chowns MP
Member of Parliament for North Herefordshire
House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA

20 December 2024

Dear Sir Chris Bryant

I am writing on behalf of three of my constituents who are deeply concerned about the future of the Welsh National Opera (WNO) following significant funding cuts. Arts Council England has reduced its funding to WNO by 35% for the period 2023-2026, while Arts Council Wales has cut funding by 11.8%.

As a result of these cuts, WNO has been forced to cancel performances in Llandudno, Bristol, and Liverpool. Additionally, musicians have had to accept reduced contracts, leading to a 15% pay cut and strike action.

WNO's Music Director, Tomáš Hanus, has expressed that the company will "struggle to maintain its national opera identity and standards" under this reduced budget.

Given these challenges, could you please clarify the justification for these funding reductions? Furthermore, how does the government plan to support WNO in continuing to perform at the highest level?

Best wishes,

Ellie Chowns MP, North Herefordshire.