

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 4:30 PM

Subject: Press coverage with Chwarae Teg and WEFO

Press has picked on the funding problems with the ESF project. This is a technical area so I am just watching while WEFO supply lines to the Press Office, and using them as necessary in our briefings.

The stance agreed with PO is that this is a matter for WEFO and Chwarae Teg, and the DM should not get pulled in to the details.

To note though, the importance of using the agreed wording.

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 3:51 PM

Subject: RE: Chwarae Teg

No I think that would be for Chwarae Teg as it would be 'commercially sensitive'? Also the amount could change (up or down) as CT work through things, following the constructive advice we have given them.

Handy if we could make the journalist understand that this is a technical issue and just a part of their ""perfect storm" of funding challenges". If SPF had been up and running quicker and easier to access then they may have been in a better position to manage out their liabilities.

Cofion / Regards

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 3:29 PM

Subject: RE: Chwarae Teg

Thanks [Welsh Government Official]. Are we able to also give a figure, like the journalist has requested? I understand this to be £X?

Many thanks,

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 2:52 PM

Subject: RE: Chwarae Teg

Perhaps "confident" is too much given their financial situation and how they got there. How about:

- Chwarae Teg are working with WEFO on outstanding matters with their ESF project Agile Nation 2, and all parties aim for this to reach a satisfactory conclusion in advance of the organisation being closed down.

Should we add defensive lines in case a more direct question is asked, like the journalist has?

- Chwarae Teg's Agile Nation 2 project received their EU funding under an advance payment regime, which is a standard approach we use for the third sector and EU funds. The amount of the advance was based on an estimate by Chwarae Teg of their expenditure in the next period.
- The project's final claim has recently been received. Expenditure included in the final claim was lower than estimated by Chwarae Teg and as a result triggered the repayment of the unused advance funds held by Chwarae Teg.

Cofion / Regards

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 2:26 PM

Subject: RE: Chwarae Teg

Is this ok for an actual line for the DM to use in plenary?

- Chwarae Teg are working with WEFO on outstanding matters with their ESF project Agile Nation 2, and we are confident that this will be fully resolved to a satisfactory conclusion in advance of the organisation being closed down.

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:43 PM

Subject: RE: Chwarae Teg

Great shout, thanks [*Welsh Government Official*]. I'll see if this is addressed in Plenary first and if so just point the journalist to the record.

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:41 PM

Subject: RE: Chwarae Teg

These are the lines regarding the advance payment and WEFO issue. Do you want to put something together on this basis. I wonder about holding off sending them until the topical question is addressed in Plenary this afternoon by the Minister for Social Justice.

EU Structural Funds and the Agile Nation 2 project

- The EU funded Agile Nation 2 project helped over 4,000 women and over 700 businesses, making a positive contribution to improving the position of women in the Welsh workforce. The project ran between April 2015 and May 2023.
- Chwarae Teg's Agile Nation 2 project received their EU funding under an advance payment regime, which is a standard approach we use for the third sector and EU funds. The amount of the advance was based on an estimate by Chwarae Teg of their expenditure in the next period.

- The project's final claim has recently been received. Expenditure included in the final claim was lower than estimated by Chwarae Teg and as a result triggered the repayment of the unused advance funds held by Chwarae Teg.
- WEFO continues to work closely with Chwarae Teg on this issue.

Background

The reference in CT's press statement about the advance payment to WEFO is misleading, e.g. use of "historic". CT would have seen this coming as it is based on the estimates and claims they submit to WEFO for their Agile Natin 2 project.

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:34 PM

Subject: FW: Chwarae Teg

Hi all,

Are you able to help with the journalist's queries around the closure of Chwarae Teg below? Is there any information we can provide publicly?

Many thanks,



Gwasanaeth Cyfathrebu
Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government
Communications Service

Sent: Wednesday, September 20, 2023 1:06 PM

Subject: Chwarae Teg

Hi there

In the Chwarae Teg statement it says

"We have also recently been informed by the Wales European Funding Office (WEFO), that the charity received an historic advance payment which must now be addressed."

<https://chwaraeteg.com/news/chwarae-teg-closure-statement/>

What did WEFO tell CT?

What does addressing the payment mean? Are funds being clawed back? How much is the payment?

Thanks,

[journalist]