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From The Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP

31 August 1984

Dear Minister

I have seen your letter of 18 July, and George Younger's reply of 25 July.

While your proposals for additional central funding of some 'national' institutions do not directly affect the arts or the museums and galleries in Wales, like George Younger, I too believe that interested parties in Wales will find it difficult to understand and accept their exclusion from the benefits of your additional funding.

Unlike George Younger, the two national institutions funded by my Department cannot claim to have suffered financially because of any Local Government reorganisation, nevertheless, they will no doubt feel aggrieved at being excluded from your announcement of additional resources and face real financial difficulties themselves. It would be useful to have a comprehensive summary of where we stand in our support for the arts, following recent changes, so that we can all see how to defend the arrangements and be in a better position to judge whether further changes are needed.

I give notice that I may need to return to this subject in the light of what you say, and also my own views on the balance of central museum funding in 1986/87 and later years between our Departments.

I am copying this to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Quintin Hailsham, Peter Rees, Keith Joseph, George Younger, Patrick Jenkin, John Biffen and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours sincerely,

C. Jones

The Earl of Gowrie
Minister for the Arts
Office of Arts and Libraries
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*(Approved by the
Secretary of State and
signed in his absence)*

Local Govt Relativity

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