

# Michael Chadwick

3rd October 2011

Your Ref: P-03-314

Dear Committee

Thank you for your continuing interest in this matter, and for allowing my input to the process once again.

I recently spoke with Ian Yeoman, former Artistic Director of Theatr Powys, and I attach a document which he asked me to consider forwarding for your attention. Many of the sentiments expressed I share, with particular reference to his belief that the lasting effects of this ACW decision will not be seen for some time. Whilst one cannot deny its merits, maintaining an "Arts provision" is not the same as maintaining a producing, specialist theatre company such as Theatr Powys, Theatr Gwent or Spectacle.

From whichever viewpoint you choose, this process [ACW Investment Review] was flawed and executed in an inconsistent and unfair manner. This damages the reputation not only of the ACW but Wales and the Arts. In particular I cannot help but feel that Arts Council Wales has yet to answer to my satisfaction a key question which the committee has asked several times now, relating to the change in judgement criteria for the Investment Review "mid-stream". This surely cannot go unchallenged, I urge the Assembly through committee to hold the Arts Minister, Mr Capaldi and their associates to account for their actions.

Yours sincerely

Michael Chadwick

Dear Committee

I write as the most recent and last Artistic Director of Theatr Powys. As you will know, the Company is now closed and all members made redundant. A large number of freelance artists have been denied their chosen place.

The lasting effects on employment/access/and even interest in the arts in mid Wales, are yet to be felt. I say this despite recent appointments by PCC. In my own view, an invaluable resource has been lost. Schools and communities will only really know what has been lost when it is well and truly gone.

I am aware, having read all correspondence currently available to the public and Michael Chadwick, that ACW feels totally comfortable with its ongoing relationship with PCC and totally confident in respect of provision in mid Wales/Powys.

I remain unconvinced.

I am aware that your committee might ask for copies of ACW reports in respect of submissions from YPT/TIE companies in the context of the still recent ACW Review.

I only wish to say again that Theatr Powys, despite all its efforts to maintain productive relations between ACW and PCC - and despite the excellence of its work, was in fact misled, mismanaged, and abused.

I would urge all involved to seek access to the ACW 2010 annual review of Theatr Powys; and Quality Monitoring Reports for the last five years at least. (Even the negative one). Contrast this documentation with a most destructive current reality.

Mr Capaldi and his associates do not yet understand the damage done. (Indeed, It has taken some effort to achieve a borderline commitment to accuracy)

Having said all of this I urge ACW and PCC to maintain a commitment to the Mid Powys Youth Theatre

Ian Yeoman  
Ex Theatr Powys