

WELSH BOOKS COUNCIL

WELSH-LANGUAGE PUBLISHING GRANTS

GUIDELINES

SUPPORTED POSTS

1 AIMS

The supported posts scheme is based on the belief that one of the main needs of the Welsh-language publishing industry is the need to strengthen its basic infrastructure. The scheme enables publishers to employ creative editors and thereby improve the quality and broaden the range of their output.

Before 2002, there was only a very restricted budget (about £14,000) available for this scheme, and two posts were supported at a low level of funding. When new investment became available for the Publishing Grant from 2002/03 onwards, the annual budget was increased to about £100,000 and the maximum funding for a full-time post was increased to £16,000. From 2010/11 onwards the budget will increase to £250,000 and the maximum funding for a full-time post to £25,000.

2 ELIGIBILITY

Who may apply?

The scheme is open to publishers who are eligible to receive Welsh Books Council publishing grants. However, resources being limited, priority is given to applications from programme publishers, since the majority of books supported with publishing grants are published by those publishers, but other publishers who publish grant books regularly (an annual average of seven or more books) are also eligible to apply.

Which posts are eligible for support?

- All posts funded must be additional to those already supported by the publisher and must be publicly advertised. Posts which already exist without grants will not be supported, and nor will the posts held by owners or part-owners of publishing houses.
- The Council is eager to support full-time posts, but part-time posts and regular freelance contractual agreements are also supported, i.e. where the editor is given a contract to work for a certain number of days a year or to work on a certain number of books a year. The scheme does not allow for the provision of editing grants per book on an occasional basis.
- The posts supported are those of commissioning/creative editors. Main duties will include the commissioning of new material, dealing with writers, and handling of manuscripts, including creative editing and seeing manuscripts through the press. The post-holders will have a key role in developing publishers' programmes and ensuring that titles appear promptly.
- Creative editors are not expected to be copy editors as well, since creative editing and copy editing ask for different skills. However creative editors are expected to do some of the initial copy editing work and to give directions to the copy editor regarding language levels, use of dialect forms etc., i.e. what the copy editing policy should be. The Council will wish to cooperate with the publisher in providing appropriate training, as necessary.

- Creative editors will naturally be expected to contribute to some extent towards marketing work such as writing blurbs etc., but matters relating to marketing and financial control should not be prominent among the editor's responsibilities.
- These grants are directed at work on leisure titles funded by the Books Council. If a publisher receives funding from another public body (e.g. in the education sector) towards the publication of a title, alternative arrangements must be made to oversee its passage through the press.

3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES

Applications from current recipients will be assessed on:

- the basic quality of the material published;
- the quality of the finished product as regards creative editing; copy editing; the care taken with illustrations, indexing etc.; the design and production of the books;
- the number of new authors published and the quality of their work;
- the balance of the list and its potential to appeal to different audiences and to reach average sales targets.

New applicants will be assessed on:

- the basic quality of their present output;
- the design and production standards of their present output;
- the nature of the applicant's proposed list if an editorial post is supported;
- the expected outcomes if an editorial post is supported;
- their ability to prove the need for support.

4 THE GRANT

- The total budget for this scheme will be approximately £250,000 annually from 2010/11 onwards.
- Funding is offered for set periods of up to three years, subject to the continuation of the Welsh Assembly Government's support for the scheme.
- The grant pays 75% of the costs of employment (salary, national insurance and pension contributions), up to a maximum grant of £25,000 per year (from April 2010 onwards) for a full-time post and the equivalent for part-time posts.

5 APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND TIMETABLE

- Applications are considered at least every three years, and sometimes more often than that. Those already receiving support will be informed when to re-apply; new applicants should contact the Grants Department for further information.
- All grants are offered in accordance with general conditions, as well as any specific conditions which might be applied to individual applications. **All applicants must agree to accept these conditions when submitting an application.**

6 PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Grants will normally be paid in equal instalments at the beginning of each quarter.

7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF WORK FUNDED

Programme publishers are required to submit a short report on the work of supported editors as part of the annual assessment process. This report will contain a list of all the books on which the editor worked during the year. The editor is expected to be present at the assessment meeting.

Application forms and further advice can be obtained from:

Richard Owen, Publishing Grants Department, Welsh Books Council, Castell Brychan,
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