

# WELSH BOOKS COUNCIL

## ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PUBLISHING GRANTS

### GUIDELINES

#### SMALL LITERARY COMMISSION GRANTS

## 1 AIMS

The scheme enables publishers to commission creative writers to undertake research or other work for which advance payment is appropriate. Grants cannot be used to fund advances against royalties.

The Welsh Books Council administers a separate Advances/ Fees to Authors and Illustrators scheme aimed at English-language books of wide appeal, and a commissions scheme for Welsh-language writers, for which guidelines are available.

## 2 ELIGIBILITY

### *Who may apply?*

The scheme is open to publishers in Wales who have a regular publishing programme, or have viable plans to establish such a programme. Applications cannot be accepted from authors or 'vanity publishers' or publishers who wish only, or primarily, to publish their own work (see **Information for Authors**).

### *Which authors and books are eligible?*

Publishers may commission writers living in Wales in connection with work in the following categories:

- Works of literature: usually poetry, fiction, biography, history (but **not local history**), plays, literary criticism, current affairs and translations from Welsh into English of any of these, works about other art-forms, other works of cultural interest.

Applications will only be considered in connection with work which the publisher has already agreed to publish in principle.

Where there is uncertainty as to eligibility, publishers are asked to discuss their projects with the Welsh Books Council's Grants Department before submitting their application.

## 3 ASSESSMENT CRITERIA AND PRIORITIES

Applications will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- The likely quality of the work to be undertaken, assessed according to the author's previous work and/or work in progress;
- The publisher's ability to edit, publish, market and distribute throughout Wales and beyond;
- The degree to which the publisher's need for funding is demonstrated.

## 4 THE GRANT

- The total annual budget for this scheme is in the region of £10,000.
- Grants will be modest and are unlikely to exceed £200 to £400 for a single author and £4,000 for a single project.
- There is no restriction on the number of applications a publisher may submit; however, the Books Council will seek as wide a spread as is practicable in allocating funds.

## 5 APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND TIMETABLE

- Applications must be made on the application form [GA LC (2010)] which may be obtained from the address at the end of this document.
- Publishers should supply any additional information which will help the Books Council make an informed judgement.
- Applications are considered by the English-language Publishing Grants Panel, which meets twice a year, usually in February and July. Applications must reach the Books Council by the deadlines posted on the Welsh Books Council's website (usually in mid November and late April).
- Grants will not be awarded to cover costs that have already been paid or which the publisher has already agreed to pay.
- All publishers in receipt of a Small-scale Literary Commission grant must adhere to the General Terms and Conditions for this scheme [GT&C LC (2010)].

## 6 PAYMENT OF GRANTS

### *Grants up to £500*

For sums up to £500, a single payment will be made after completion of the project and on receipt of a completed claim form [GC LC (2007)] giving full details of the project undertaken along with copies of all relevant invoices.

### *Grants over £500*

For sums in excess of £500, payments will be made in two stages.

- **Advance Payment:** up to half the grant is payable in advance on receipt of a completed claim form [GC LC (2007)] and a signed copy of the publisher's contract with the author.
- **Final Payment:** this will be made on receipt of a report confirming satisfactory completion of the project, a claim form [GC LC (2007)] and invoices.

## 7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF WORK FUNDED

The Welsh Books Council will require publishers to report on the publishing outcome of commissions funded by this scheme, including reporting on sales figures.

**Application forms and further advice can be obtained from:**

**Dr Lucy Thomas, Grants Department, Welsh Books Council, Castell Brychan,  
Aberystwyth, Ceredigion, SY23 2JB**

**Tel: 01970 624151 fax: 01970 625385 e-mail: [lucy.thomas@cllc.org.uk](mailto:lucy.thomas@cllc.org.uk)**