

Dawn Bowden AS/MS  
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip  
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-1073  
Ein cyf/Our ref DB/10414/21  
Jack Sargeant MS  
Chair - Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

06 October 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for writing to me in relation to petitions P-05-1073 and P-05-1086.

You asked whether the Welsh Government would consider rehousing the Tiger Bay archive within a more accessible location for the public. The Heritage & Cultural Exchange (HCE) took ownership of the Tiger Bay collection (<https://www.tigerbay.org.uk/>), comprising local people's memories, documents and photographs, from the former Butetown History and Arts Centre when it closed in 2017.

The full Tiger Bay collection is currently housed at Glamorgan Archives on a temporary basis. It is being cared for by professional staff and stored in purpose built accommodation. HCE volunteers are able to access and work on the materials. We understand that discussions about a permanent home for the archive are ongoing. HCE remains the owner of the collection and therefore decisions about its future lie with HCE, but the temporary arrangements mean that the archive is safe and accessible in the short to medium-term.

You also asked about progress in relation to recognising and celebrating black history in Wales.

I am committed to ensuring that the histories of our Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities is an integral part of the story of Wales. Our sponsored bodies and local cultural sectors share my commitment to making this happen.

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales has previously provided detailed evidence to the Petitions Committee on progress following on from the Black Lives Matter movement. I am pleased to be able to confirm that the Museum has continued to maintain its momentum in this area.

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

On Friday 1 October, I was at the launch of Black History Wales 2021-22 organised by Race Council Cymru, which included the official opening of the Windrush Cymru – Our Voice, Our Stories, Our History exhibition at St Fagans. The exhibition is the result of an oral histories project led by Race Council Cymru and funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. It shows how the Windrush Generation and their descendants have made their mark in all walks of Welsh life, and the contributions they made to our communities and culture. The exhibition will also be displayed at National Waterfront Museum and National Wool Museum, and a number of community venues across Wales. The People's Collection Wales programme and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales were partners in this important project, and St Fagan's will now be the repository for the material collected as part of this project, adding these stories to the narrative of Welsh history.

Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, the National Library of Wales, and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales are committed to diversifying their collections and are in the progress of reviewing and decolonising them. In summer 2021, the Museum published a charter on decolonising the national collections in its care.

On 5 October, Amgueddfa Cymru announced two new artist commissions who will work to reframe the legacy of Sir Thomas Picton. Picton had previously been hailed as a public hero, but is also notorious for his cruel treatment of Black people and for sanctioning torture during his governance of Trinidad. His portrait has been part of the Museum's collection since 1907.

The commissions, awarded to artists Gesiye and Laku Neg, are part of a wider project, *'Reframing Picton'*, which is a youth-led initiative involving Amgueddfa Cymru and community partner the Sub Sahara Advisory Panel. When complete, these new artworks will become part of Wales' national collection.

The Arts Council of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales commissioned a series of 'widening access' reports from independent consultants earlier this year. I made a written statement on 6 September about the concerns raised in these reports. It is for the Arts Council of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales to produce an action plan that addresses these concerns and to set out how they will widen engagement with people and communities they currently fail to engage. I know they are currently considering the recommendations from those reports and I expect them to publish that action plan as soon as possible.

The Arts Council of Wales has appointed an Agent for Change this year too, and recently launched a documentary *'Cynefin: Black, Asian and minority ethnic Wales'* – this builds on the Lead Creative Schools scheme. As part of the process, schools worked in collaboration with highly experienced creative practitioners from culturally and ethnically diverse backgrounds to plan, devise and implement creative learning projects which explored the development of Wales as a multicultural society.

I have this week agreed programme funding of £98,080 to support the local museum sector in Wales. This funding will establish a greater understanding of the collections held by museums across the country, and of the ethnically diverse histories they currently include. It will also enable us to clearly identify the gaps in representation, and support meaningful engagement with diverse communities to start addressing these gaps.

The Welsh Government's remit letters will be issued to our sponsored bodies shortly. These capture my expectations of our Culture and Sport sponsored bodies for the term of Government and include an ongoing focus on under-represented communities, and on delivering against the Welsh Government's Race Equality Action Plan.

This month has a particular focus on Black history of course. I am pleased to tell you that Race Council Cymru was awarded £40,000 by the Welsh Government this year to fund a full-time marketing and communications role and a part-time administration role to undertake activity to promote and celebrate Black History across the whole of the year.

There is always more to achieve, but I feel we are starting to see the results of a focus on recognising and celebrating black history in Wales. I trust this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dawn Bowden'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'D' and 'B'.

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