

Jack Sargeant AS/MS  
Y Gweinidog Diwylliant, Sgiliau a Phartneriaeth Gymdeithasol  
Minister for Culture, Skills and Social Partnership



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref: P-06-1511  
Ein cyf/Our ref: JS/00244/25

Carolyn Thomas MS  
Chair, Petitions committee  
Senedd Cymru  
Cardiff Bay  
Cardiff  
CF99 1SN  
Government.Committee.Business@gov.wales

15 April 2025

Dear Carolyn,

Thank you for your letter of 28 March regarding petition P-06-1511, which requests that Penylan Observatory is rebuilt at St Fagans National Museum of History.

We have discussed the petition with Amgueddfa Cymru. It has confirmed that it would welcome the opportunity to discuss the ideas in this petition with Mr Grennan and Cardiff Astronomical Society (CAS) to learn more about the proposal. As far as Amgueddfa Cymru is aware, very little of the observatory survived beyond 1979 and a replica would need to be built. If a replica were to be considered, it would require the architectural and engineering drawings and detailed specifications of the telescope and its cradle to enable the creation of an accurate, functioning and worthwhile representation of the observatory.

Amgueddfa Cymru has a Collection Development Group and a procedure in place to support decision making regarding what it collects. Any future proposal to rebuild the observatory at St Fagans would have to be considered in line with this procedure and support the delivery of Amgueddfa Cymru's Collection Development Strategy.

The petitioner is welcome to contact Amgueddfa Cymru online at [www.museum.wales/enquiries](http://www.museum.wales/enquiries) or by post to:

Sioned Hughes  
Head of History and Collection Development  
National Museum Cardiff  
Cathays Park  
Cardiff  
CF10 3NP.

Canolfan Cyswllt Cyntaf / First Point of Contact Centre:  
0300 0604400

Bae Caerdydd • Cardiff Bay  
Caerdydd • Cardiff  
CF99 1SN

[Gohebiaeth.Jack.Sargeant@llyw.cymru](mailto:Gohebiaeth.Jack.Sargeant@llyw.cymru)  
[Correspondence.Jack.Sargeant@gov.wales](mailto:Correspondence.Jack.Sargeant@gov.wales)

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.

Upon the closure of the observatory, CAS donated the telescope and the mirror cell from the larger reflecting telescope to the Museum of Cardiff. The Museum is currently working with CAS to co-produce a city showcase exhibition to celebrate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The exhibition, which is provisionally planned to be held between 5 July and 1 November, will potentially showcase the telescope and mirror cell. It will also allow the local community and visitors to explore more about the CAS, the history of Penylan Observatory, Dyffryn Observatory and astronomical discoveries in Cardiff.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JACK SARGEANT". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath the name.

**Jack Sargeant AS/MS**

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