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30 September 2016

Bethan Jenkins AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CARDIF CF99 1NA

Dear Bethan

I am writing to you today in your role as Chair of the Culture, Welsh Language and Communications committee following comments made at Plenary on Wednesday afternoon (28th September 2016). The Museum has been made aware in particular of the comments made by Suzy Davies AM, Dai Lloyd AM and yourself in relation to Historic Wales, which had been announced via a written statement by the Cabinet Secretary for the Economy and Infrastructure earlier that day.

We noted the concerns raised by members of the Committee in about the announcement, and the potential impact on Amgueddfa Cymru and wanted to assure the Committee through you, as Chair, that this announcement is being given the full attention of our staff, management team and Board of Trustees.

At our Board of Trustees meeting yesterday, a working group was set-up to consider as a matter of urgency how best to contribute to the work of the Historic Wales Steering Group. A letter has also been sent by the President of the Museum to the Cabinet Secretary earlier today, seeking clarification in relation to the proposals. A copy of this letter is attached, to further assure the Committee that our management team and Board are giving the proposals detailed attention. This will ensure that the implications for Amgueddfa Cymru as a National Museum with a Royal Charter, as a registered charity, and for our trading operation as a limited company, are fully considered.

Should the Committee or any of its members have any other questions or queries as the proposals for Historic Wales progresses, we would of course engage fully with this process in a positive and constructive way.

Warm regards

David Anderson
Director General

Llywydd/President Elisabeth Elias MA DL
Is-Llywydd/Vice President Dr Haydn Edwards MBA PhD FRSC
Trysorydd/Treasurer Laurence Pavein CBE FCA
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol/Director General David Anderson OBE
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Ken Skates AC/AM
Cabinet Secretary for Economy and Infrastructure
Welsh Government
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF CF99 1NA

Dear Ken,

We welcome the publication of the PwC Report and the invitation to be part of the Historic Wales Steering Group. Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales will contribute positively to the discussions exploring options for greater collaboration between Wales' heritage organisations including the National Library of Wales, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales and Cadw.

We also fully support the ambition to realise the commercial potential of Wales's heritage bodies and organisations, whilst protecting their independence and their individual identity, integrity and core purpose.

Following consideration of the PwC Report at the Board of Trustees meeting yesterday, a working group has been set up to consider as a matter of urgency how best to contribute to the work of the **Historic Wales** Steering Group.

The Board of Trustees of Amgueddfa Cymru would be grateful for clarification from you as Cabinet Secretary to the proposals outlined in Wednesday's ministerial statement and the subsequent press release, allowing sufficient time for our consideration of your response before the next meeting of the Steering Group which is due to take place on 24th October 2016. In particular we would welcome the following information:

1. Could the Cabinet Secretary please clarify the statement made on Wednesday that "plans to bring the commercial functions of Cadw and Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales together have moved a step closer today" and reference to the "commitment to the creation of new body, Historic Wales." These statements indicate that some key decisions have already been taken. Please can you let us know in more detail what these are?

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2. What is the evidence base for these decisions?
3. Why was it decided to include Amgueddfa Cymru in this week's announcement, and not the National Library or the Royal Commission?
4. It is assumed that the **Historic Wales** Steering Group, should it wish, will be able to commission feasibility studies and develop a business case for each of the four Options in the PwC Report. Please can you confirm this point.
5. Will such studies be managed by the Steering Group or by the Welsh Government?
6. What does the Cabinet Secretary believe should be the role, functions and responsibilities of **Historic Wales**?
7. What in the view of the Cabinet Secretary should be the legal status of **Historic Wales**, and what governance structure should it have?
8. The original Terms of Reference circulated to the Steering Group listed a wide range of functions that were within the scope of **Historic Wales**, which were subsequently omitted from the revised version. How will the Government ensure that control and responsibility for the core work and business decisions of the Museum will remain with its Board and management?
9. Can the Cabinet Secretary confirm that any proposed changes will respect the Museum's Royal Charter, its charitable status, the responsibilities of its Enterprises Company and duty of care for staff?

The Museum is entering these discussions with the Welsh Government, Trade Unions and potential cultural partners in a positive and constructive way, with the aim of strengthening the nation's cultural institutions for the benefit of the people of Wales. However, we as Trustees of Amgueddfa Cymru are also conscious of our responsibilities as a National Museum with a Royal Charter, a registered charity and for our trading operation as a limited company.

It is essential that full consideration is given to the implications of any proposed changes only after further feasibility studies have been conducted. The Steering Group may also offer strong alternative proposals in addition to those that feature in the PwC report, and help the Government to achieve the objective of a thriving and sustainable cultural sector.

We look forward to working with you through the Steering Group and to your early reply.

*Yours sincerely,
Elisabeth*

Elisabeth Elias
President