

Amgueddfa Cymru

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24 October 2013

William Powell AM
Chair, Petitions Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
CF99 1NA

Dear William Powell

Thank you for your letter of 3 October 2013 requesting an update on how the Change Programme structure has affected the operational matters of the seven national museums.

We have begun implementing the Change Programme, which is broadly in line with our programme schedule. It will take several months more to implement, as it is being carried out in a sequential manner to ensure openness and transparency to all.

The key drivers that have underpinned the approach to the Change Programme across all Divisions are:

- To reduce staff costs and headcount to enable us to meet our savings target of £2.5m, whilst also contributing to long-term savings;
- To enable us to deliver our commitment to bring a learning organization that actively promotes inclusion and participation in culture and heritage and supports the Welsh Government in addressing Child Poverty through greater cultural access and partnership working;
- To ensure that higher priority is given to engaging directly with the public in line with our stated aims;
- To develop an organizational approach that is able to deliver strategic aims and is capable of changing to meet new circumstances, demands and challenges;
- To realign our staffing structure to support the creation of the three new museums outlined in the Vision – the National Museum of Art, the National History Museum and the National Museum of Natural Sciences;
- To keep the museums open to the public and continue to ensure the security of the national collections.

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In making these changes, introduced from June this year, Amgueddfa Cymru has tried to maintain its service to the public at all its sites. We hope the new structure will not directly affect the delivery of the day-to-day operations of the seven national museums across Wales. Amgueddfa Cymru will continue to offer visitors quality experiences at each of its museums, which together attracted over 1.75 million people last year.

Amgueddfa Cymru continues to implement, support and promote the Welsh Government's commitment to free entry to all of the seven national museum sites. Following the introduction of the policy in 2001, the number of visitors to our seven national museums has more than doubled. Free Entry is important to our visitors, especially during the current economic climate. The national collections belong to the people of Wales and our museums should therefore be as accessible as possible to everyone.

However, following the recent budget announcement by the Welsh Government and working within a challenging economic climate, we – like many other public sector organisations – we will continue to keep under review our financial situation to ensure we align our resources to deliver our strategic objectives.

The current economic climate is challenging but I, together with the Senior Management Team, will do all that we can to minimise the impact on our staff and our visitors.

I thank you for your correspondence.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David Anderson
Director General, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales