

# The impact of COVID-19 on heritage, museums and archives

August 2020

## Background

1. The Culture, Welsh Language and Communications Committee is looking into the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak on areas within its remit, including museums, archives and heritage ('the sector'). The Committee considered written contributions, heard oral evidence from stakeholders at a meeting on 9 July 2020 and also heard from Dafydd Elis-Thomas MS, the Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism, on 12 May.

## 1. Immediate Funding challenges

2. The Committee heard that the financial impact on the sector has been significant. Justin Albert, National Trust, said that the lockdown has had a 'dramatic effect'<sup>1</sup> on their commercial income. Commercial activity at the National Trust sites has 'gone from 100 per cent to about 2 or 3 per cent at best'.<sup>2</sup> They estimated that their budget shortfall would amount to '£200 million this year across the National Trust'.<sup>3</sup>

3. The Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway said:

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<sup>1</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 50

<sup>2</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 51

<sup>3</sup> National Trust written evidence



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‘Firstly, it is likely that we will see our income significantly reduced for the foreseeable future... Secondly, operating costs and staffing needs will increase as we adapt to new COVID-19 guidelines’.<sup>4</sup>

**4.** Employers are able to claim 80 per cent of salaries for staff unable to work through the UK Government’s Job Retention Scheme (‘furlough scheme’). The Committee heard that this scheme has been used across the sector. For instance 80 per cent of National Trust staff,<sup>5</sup> 25 per cent of The National Library of Wales staff<sup>6</sup> and 40 per cent of National Museum of Wales<sup>7</sup> staff have been furloughed. The scheme is set to close in October 2020.

**5.** National Trust said ‘it will also be extremely important that the existing furlough scheme is kept available for as long as possible to help keep minimise running costs from those staff who are not immediately needed, and until such time as our sites can be fully operational’.<sup>8</sup>

**6.** Pedr ap Llwyd, The National Library of Wales, said that the Library will have lost 95 per cent of commercial income as a result of COVID-19 which could result in the loss of ‘some £600,000 this year’.<sup>9</sup> He said:

‘The current financial challenge is very significant indeed. We are now looking at being something in the region of £1.2 million in deficit in terms of revenue by the end of this year. We are seeking to have discussions with the Welsh Government at the moment, but we do anticipate that unless those discussions and negotiations are successful, then we could see a very significant reduction in our workforce from the new year on’.<sup>10</sup>

**7.** David Anderson said that the National Museum Wales is ‘projecting to lose about £1.8 million of commercial income’ this financial year.<sup>11</sup> He noted that many funders in the sector had chosen to prioritise organisations which do not receive government funding, as the National Museum does. He said that the real value of

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<sup>4</sup> Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway written evidence

<sup>5</sup> National Trust written evidence

<sup>6</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 118

<sup>7</sup> National Museum Wales written evidence

<sup>8</sup> National Trust written evidence

<sup>9</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 58

<sup>10</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 213

<sup>11</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 63

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their grant in aid has dropped ‘by somewhere near 30 per cent in the last decade or so’.<sup>12</sup>

**8.** The Museums Association said in written evidence:

‘Those museums that are most reliant on earned income have initially been hit hardest. This means that independent museums, which are generally run as charitable enterprises, are particularly vulnerable and are estimated to have lost over £800,000 in income in the first quarter of lockdown. There is a threat to rural museums which help support the wider rural and visitor economy in Wales’.<sup>13</sup>

**9.** The Association praised the furlough scheme for buying the sector ‘breathing space’. It went on to say ‘Our concern is that ending the scheme abruptly could lead to unnecessary job losses and insolvencies’.<sup>14</sup>

**10.** Andrew White, National Lottery Heritage Fund, said they have:

‘paused 27 projects in Wales in a pipeline that we'd been trying to diversify and successfully been diversifying. Those projects, as a result of the emergency fund, have been parked. That's around £1.7 million of projects withdrawn. That's a risk for us—that those projects might never come back’.<sup>15</sup>

## Gift Aid

**11.** Both the National Trust and the Museums Association called for changes to the Gift Aid system. The Museums Association called for Gift Aid which has been generated by museums’ trading arms - but not yet transferred to their charitable arms - to be exempt from Corporation Tax in the next tax year. National Trust<sup>16</sup> and the Museums Association suggested ‘the prepayment of Gift Aid based on last year’s payments as a means to support income’.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 216

<sup>13</sup> Museums Association written evidence

<sup>14</sup> Museums Association written evidence

<sup>15</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 220

<sup>16</sup> National Trust written evidence

<sup>17</sup> Museums Association written evidence

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## Emergency funding

**12.** The Committee heard that there are several sources of funding for the sector, these are listed at Annex B.

## Our View

### Meeting the immediate funding needs of the sector

The lockdown saw an immediate closure of our heritage sites, museums and archives. The resulting loss of income from ticket sales, shops, cafes, private hires, events and memberships was significant. For smaller organisations it could prove fatal.

The immediate cash flow crisis has hit those organisations that are most reliant on earned income the hardest. Smaller, most often independent, museums are particularly vulnerable.

This pandemic risks shrinking our network of museums, libraries and heritage sites, particularly those in rural areas which provide a vital boost to the local economy. Every one of these sites is valuable, for instance, local museums are often the place where children first experience learning through connecting with objects from the past. National Trust venues provide a safe and accessible outdoor environment for all generations. The existential threat now facing these organisations jeopardises a key part of the local community.

One way in which the immediate cash flow situation could be improved is by bringing forward Gift Aid payments. We will be asking the Welsh Government to discuss Gift Aid payments with the Treasury, on behalf of the sector.

We were told of the financial timebomb about to hit organisations once the furlough scheme ends in October. The ability of institutions to generate income once the lockdown has been lifted will be heavily curtailed. It is unrealistic to expect receipts to cover all future expenses, the furlough scheme will be needed for those sites which are not able to reopen fully given the need for continued social distancing measures for some time to come.

Throughout this inquiry we have heard from a number that their commercial income is unlikely to reach pre-pandemic levels for a number of years. We are therefore reiterating our recommendation, made previously in this inquiry, for the Welsh Government to urge the Treasury to continue their furlough scheme beyond October 2020.

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The scale of the funding to maintain this sector clearly cannot be met by local authorities or from the grant-in-aid settlements of our national institutions alone.

On 5 July the UK Government launched a £1.57 billion fund to ‘provide a lifeline to vital cultural and heritage organisations’ including £59 million for Wales. In response, on 30 July the Welsh Government announced a £53 million fund ‘to provide essential support to theatres, galleries, music venues, heritage sites, museums, galleries, archive services, events and festivals, and independent cinemas’.<sup>18</sup>

We are calling on the Welsh Government to commit to spending the whole of the £59 million additional funding announced by the UK Government to support individuals and organisations in the cultural, arts and heritage sector.

**Recommendation 1.** The Welsh Government should commit to spending all of the £59 million additional funding from the UK Government on supporting individuals and organisations in the cultural, arts and heritage sector.

**Recommendation 2.** The Welsh Government should urge the UK Government to continue the Job Retention Scheme beyond October 2020 for heritage organisations, museums and archives not able to fully reopen this year.

## 2. Digital content

**13.** The Committee heard that renewed efforts have been made to digitise collections so that they can still be accessed during the lockdown. The move to creating more online content has resulted in reaching new audiences but will require sustained investment in order to build on this success.

**14.** The National Museum Wales said:

‘we have focused our efforts on how best we can continue to support the communities we serve during this time, developing programmes and content digitally... Our trends show that there’s interest from different market segments, with more local communities engaging with us on the website’.<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> <https://gov.wales/securing-the-future-of-wales-culture-sector>

<sup>19</sup> National Museum Wales written evidence

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**15.** It described the ‘Collecting Covid’ project which collects descriptions of people’s experiences during this time. Of educational provision, it said that it has ‘continued to work with schools, developing new resources with Hwb and the Consortia for the new National Curriculum for Wales; and also the Minecraft your Museum competition.’ It also said it was working with Health Boards on ways for the patients and NHS staff to use the art collection ‘both online and in the workplace’.<sup>20</sup>

**16.** Pedr ap Llwyd, The National Library of Wales, told the Committee that the work on collecting material for the Library’s digital archive has increased during the time that the building has been closed. He said that the Library has been providing far more bilingual digital content for schools and colleges and ‘the increase in the digital content has been immense over the past few months’.<sup>21</sup>

**17.** National Trust said that their digital content was allowing them to reach new audiences during lockdown:

‘for example we’ve seen a six-fold increase in downloads of our podcasts. We are therefore discovering new ways of interacting and engaging the public and providing new forms of access to our places and collections which may well support efforts to widen participation and access in the future, even after the current crisis ends.’<sup>22</sup>

**18.** The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales gave examples of the ways which museums are supporting communities online by producing resources for home-schooling, collecting experiences of the pandemic such as videos and artwork, and running online exhibitions. It says that it used Welsh Government funding for a project with People’s Collection Wales to increase online access for smaller organisations which do not have their own website. It stressed that the work to improve digital access had been done with no additional funding. It said:

‘Welsh Government and other funders should consider investment in museums’ innovative digital provision, as well as tackling digital poverty and ensuring all communities in the country have improved digital access and literacy.’<sup>23</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> National Museum Wales written evidence

<sup>21</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 80

<sup>22</sup> National Trust written evidence

<sup>23</sup> Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales written evidence

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**19.** David Anderson, National Museum Wales, also stressed the need for additional funding:

‘an organisation like ours badly, badly needs to invest in our digital systems and infrastructure, and this is very, very expensive and it shows relatively little in six months or a year, but in five years or 10 years, it's the basis for the learning systems, the community engagement work in every community in Wales’.<sup>24</sup>

**20.** Conwy County Borough Council (‘Conwy CBC’) also called for increased investment to make the most of online opportunities. It said:

‘A grant scheme to support staff, and possibly volunteer training, would also be of assistance as new equipment to move services in a digital direction will not be able to be used to best effect if staff/volunteers are not confident in using it’.<sup>25</sup>

**21.** Andrew White, National Lottery Heritage Fund, told the Committee that ‘One of the things that we are doing is investing in the digital capacity of the heritage sector and investing in digital skills—Digital Skills for Heritage’.<sup>26</sup>

**22.** In terms of reaching those without digital access, David Anderson, National Museum Wales, said:

‘But I would like to stress that we know that maybe 15 per cent or so of the population of Wales don't have any significant digital access, so we've also worked very, very hard to distribute it through our community partners... to make sure that it's reaching people who otherwise wouldn't be reached’.<sup>27</sup>

**23.** The Deputy Minister for Culture, Sport and Tourism told the Committee that as well as the Resilience Fund the Welsh Government has provided:

‘£250,000 towards digital library resource, which will enable public libraries to provide additional digital resources to the public and give people resources to read and engage while self-isolating’.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 165

<sup>25</sup> Conwy CBC written evidence

<sup>26</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 84

<sup>27</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 45

<sup>28</sup> CWLC meeting 12 May para 10

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## Our View

### Digital delivery

Heritage organisations, museums and archives have responded to the challenge of lockdown by increasing their digital output and developing online engagement at a time when physical access to collections is impossible. The Committee heard of many examples, including National Trust podcasts, Facebook quizzes on mystery objects from Wrexham Museum, online lectures and virtual tours.

Although there are benefits to reaching a wider geographical audience through online activity, there is always the danger that the digital divide means some are left behind.

This activity has been done with minimal additional funds. We heard that dedicated resources are needed to build on and sustain this digital access to, and interpretation of, our national collections.

Much of this activity sprang up out of necessity as a short term fix in reaction to the lockdown. We now need the Welsh Government to show leadership on this issue and ensure that the digital output continues in a planned, not piecemeal way. Organisations need to collaborate, not duplicate effort, especially when it comes to preparing learning material for the National Curriculum and Health Boards.

This increase in online activity also has to be properly resourced to succeed. We are calling on the Welsh Government to set out how they will ensure future funding settlements with the sector will provide for digitising our local and national collections and providing online educational and outreach activity.

**Recommendation 3.** The Welsh Government should ensure that museums, archives and heritage sites are adequately resourced, in terms of expertise and infrastructure, to provide digital access to, and online engagement with, their collections.

**Recommendation 4.** The Welsh Government should draw up a strategy for increasing digital access to our collections which is:

- planned, properly funded and visionary;
- developed alongside education providers to deliver the National Curriculum; and



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- Recognises the benefits to mental and physical health and seeks to deliver outcomes for the National Health Service.

### 3. Future support

**24.** The Committee was told of the challenges and opportunities of future funding strategies. Stakeholders called for renewed investment in capital projects and for their reporting mechanisms to recognise greater collaboration and their new way of working.

#### Greater collaboration

**25.** Stakeholders called for more recognition of the benefits they deliver for other sectors, namely health and education. They called for greater collaboration across the public sector and across funding providers.

**26.** The First Division Association (FDA) called for the Welsh Government's funding model 'to change to one that is less dependent upon visitor numbers.' It went on to say 'The ability of institutions to raise the same amount of money that they have in recent years is unlikely to go back to pre-pandemic levels for a number of years, if ever'.<sup>29</sup>

**27.** Pedr ap Llwyd, The National Library of Wales, told the Committee:

'If funding were available, I'm sure for us and the museum, our contribution could be so much greater to the Welsh economy, to Welsh education, and, yes, even to Welsh health... I would like the Welsh Government to recognise that and to invest in our cultural institutions, thereby enabling us to have a far more far-reaching impact than we currently have at the moment'.<sup>30</sup>

**28.** David Anderson, National Museum Wales, called for the Welsh Government to agree work programmes which make the Museum responsible for delivering outcomes for the education curriculum and the health system, saying :

'what we all need, really, is that we agree work programmes, we're actually made responsible for delivering on work programmes, into the

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<sup>29</sup> FDA written evidence

<sup>30</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 170

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curriculum, working with the health boards and working with the health system'<sup>31</sup>

**29.** National Trust was concerned about the complexity of the funding processes with different lottery funds, central government funds and other funders. It called for an entirely new approach to funding and for the Welsh Government to leverage funding schemes together to create opportunities at scale, and contribute additional funds. It said this approach 'might enable a more comprehensive and coherent approach'.<sup>32</sup>

### Key performance indicators

**30.** Those who contributed to the inquiry were in favour of revising the Key Performance Indicators ('KPIs') used to assess their performance by the Welsh Government. They argued for KPIs to be updated to account for collaboration across the public sector and increased digital delivery.

**31.** David Anderson, National Museum Wales, called for KPIs to cover responsibility for working with the health and education sectors. He said:

'If a lot is asked of us, and if we're challenged, I think we'll step forward for it. So, give us the KPIs, give us the big vision of what we can do on health across the whole of Wales, and then give us the infrastructure to be able to deliver it. It would be transformative'.<sup>33</sup>

**32.** Andrew White, National Lottery Heritage Fund, said KPIs need to be updated:

'The situation in which we operate has changed dramatically, and these need now to be done in a post-COVID way that moves us to whatever the new normal is going to be'.<sup>34</sup>

**33.** Conwy CBC said that to build resilience, in future, their culture and heritage sectors will have to be a 'hybrid physical/digital model'. They called on the Welsh Government to fund this approach and provide 'guidance/standard setting', saying that the 'accreditation schemes for both archives and museums will need amendment to reflect the change'.<sup>35</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 232

<sup>32</sup> National Trust written evidence

<sup>33</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 232

<sup>34</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 238

<sup>35</sup> Conwy CBC written evidence

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## Capital investment

**34.** The Committee was told of the importance of continued capital investment by the Welsh Government, which might now be in danger. Pedr ap Llwyd, The National Library of Wales, stressed the importance of capital investment to develop the library as a cultural tourism destination. He said:

‘We have very recently presented to the Welsh Government our plans for the capital development grants, and myself and my board within the national library do see the library as being able to make a very real and excellent contribution to the economy of Ceredigion and to the economy of Wales more generally’.<sup>36</sup>

**35.** David Anderson, National Museum Wales, said that some projects have had to be paused. He stressed that there is a ‘capital maintenance backlog of in excess of £60 million for our eight sites’, and went on to say:

‘We very, very much hope that the commitment that the Welsh Government has made over the last two years to capital investment will be able to continue after this as well’.<sup>37</sup>

**36.** Justin Albert, National Trust, explained that the National Trust across the UK has had to pause the majority of their major capital projects which amount to roughly £15 million a year,<sup>38</sup> which will have a ‘dramatic effect’ going forward.

**37.** The Welsh Government set out capital allocations for the National Museum of £3.5 million in the 2020-21 draft budget. The Welsh Government has invested £7 million in the redevelopment of St Fagans.

## Tourism

**38.** Organisations were keen to see cultural and heritage attractions play a bigger part in tourism campaigns run by Visit Wales. The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales said:

‘We would ask Visit Wales and Welsh Government to ensure that the wider cultural sector, including local museums and attractions not funded directly by Welsh Government, are integral to any campaigns to

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<sup>36</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 60

<sup>37</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 65

<sup>38</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 54

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encourage visitors and tourists back to the country. Support for marketing and communications will be key.’<sup>39</sup>

**39.** The Museums Association also called for a ‘strategic plan to encourage and develop domestic tourism in Wales centring on museums and heritage sites’.<sup>40</sup>

**40.** David Anderson, National Museum Wales, argued that the Museum is a net contributor to the Welsh economy by way of attracting tourists to Wales, so a successful tourism strategy would help grow the economy. He told the Committee:

‘we attracted until March nearly 2 million visitors a year, and nearly half of those are from outside Wales. The economic impact for Wales each year is about £83 million gross value added. So, we’re giving back more than four times as much into the Welsh economy as it’s costing the Welsh Government to pay for us to run each year’.<sup>41</sup>

**41.** The Museums Association<sup>42</sup> and the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales stressed the importance of the sector to supporting local suppliers and increasing tourism in rural economies. For example:

‘Anglesey’s Oriel Ynys Môn supports 14 Anglesey-based suppliers, 16 Welsh suppliers and 18 UK-based suppliers through their shop. For every £1 of public money spent on the museum, £11.87 is brought into the local economy’.<sup>43</sup>

## Our View

### Capital investment

We heard of the immediate financial dangers faced by the sector, but stakeholders also warned of the need to make longer term investments. They called on the Welsh Government to renew its commitments to capital funding projects, highlighting a historic lack of investment in buildings. The Federation

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<sup>39</sup> Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales written evidence

<sup>40</sup> Museums Association written evidence

<sup>41</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 66

<sup>42</sup> Museums Association written evidence

<sup>43</sup> Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales written evidence

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of Museums and Art Galleries told us that dated and poor quality visitor facilities had hampered museums' ability to fully reopen.

The Committee has discussed the urgency of the capital funding needed for the National Museum Wales at our annual scrutiny sessions. Last December, Members visited the National Museum Cardiff to see for themselves the visitor facilities in need of upgrading and lack of wheelchair access.

We want to see buildings which are attractive to visit and accessible for all. Capital investment will also increase local employment and benefit the economy. We hope that the short term reprioritisation of funding to deal with the lockdown does not result in long term underfunding of much needed capital improvements.

### **A renewed tourism strategy**

Visitors to our cultural and heritage infrastructure make a vital contribution to rural economies. The Welsh Government's tourism strategy already promotes Wales' unique heritage, but at a time when people may be hesitant to enter smaller venues, and international visitors are staying away, we will be writing to the Welsh Government to say that we need a concerted effort to develop domestic tourism based on our heritage and museums.

### **Updated Key Performance Indicators**

Stakeholders told us that funding and delivery in this sector needs to change. They have suggested updating their performance assessment to take into account delivery of health and education outcomes. We endorse stretching KPIs which allow for greater cross sector and digital delivery.

For many years the Welsh Government and this Committee has encouraged this sector to increase commercial income and reduce reliance on public funding. The pandemic has exposed the fragility of this funding model. We are asking the Welsh Government to revise the way in which funding is decided for museums, archives and heritage sites to take into account their increased digital delivery and to compensate for their reduced commercial income.

**Recommendation 5.** The Welsh Government should revise the way in which funding is decided for museums, libraries and heritage sites to take into account increased digital delivery and compensate for reduced commercial income.

**Recommendation 6.** The Welsh Government should revise the key performance indicators for this sector to encourage:

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- greater collaboration within the sector; and
  - the delivery of outcomes in health, education, tackling poverty and social exclusion.

The Welsh Government should also ensure the sector is sufficiently resourced to deliver these objectives.

## 4. Reaching a wider audience

**42.** The Committee was told of renewed efforts to increase access to Wales' heritage and to make collections relevant to a wider audience. The Committee also heard about the potential to use the resources of libraries and museums to tackle poverty.

**43.** The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales highlighted the role of museums in creating cohesive communities:

'The role that museums can play in tackling poverty and creating opportunities for those most at risk of socio-economic exclusion, as evidenced by their participation in the Fusion programme, is likely to become even more important as the effects of the pandemic on the country's economy begin to become clearer'.<sup>44</sup>

**44.** In the same vein, Pedr ap Llwyd, The National Library of Wales, called on the Welsh Government to spend the £59 million additional funding on mitigating the impacts of poverty. He said:

'I would like the Welsh Government to realise what local libraries can do in terms of alleviating the impacts of poverty, and to provide information to everyone so that we don't discriminate between households. Information can lift us out of the grave situations we find ourselves in, and let us all work together in order to eradicate disadvantage in terms of culture and information within our communities'.<sup>45</sup>

**45.** Andrew White, National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

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<sup>44</sup> Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales written evidence

<sup>45</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 243

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'It's about being inclusive, so that the people of Wales –all the peoples of Wales–feel that their heritage, their built environment and their natural surroundings not only belong to them, but are relevant to them, accessible to them, and tell a story of our wonderful, inclusive nation's culture and heritage'.<sup>46</sup>

**46.** The conversation also addressed the need to widen access to people from different ethnicities as well as income brackets. The National Museum said it stands with black communities in the fight against racial injustice. It said that museum collections are often rooted in colonialism, but it is seeking to diversify the collections and contribute 'to conversations that highlight decolonisation, inequality and racism'. It went on to say: 'Our commitment will continue beyond the current situation, as understanding the challenges faced in the past can empower people to confront today's issues together'.<sup>47</sup>

**47.** Justin Albert, National Trust also addressed the challenge of attracting a more diverse audience. He said:

'we really do everything in our hearts to make people welcome, but people still don't feel welcome. I spend a lot of time talking to communities... [such as] Bangladeshi communities in Conwy - and they would love to be more engaged. They don't feel welcome. If we can do anything to make people feel more welcome in our places, if I had my golden wish, that's what it would be'.<sup>48</sup>

## Our View

### **Making our shared history inclusive and accessible**

The Committee carried out an inquiry into tackling poverty through the arts, culture and heritage in 2019.<sup>49</sup> During this inquiry we again heard of the need to increase the diversity of those who visit heritage sites, museums and archives.

There is a role for the sector in providing the information and engagement which is vital for people at risk of social exclusion. The lockdown has not only shown the importance of our national collections for educational resources but

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<sup>46</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 236

<sup>47</sup> National Museum Wales written evidence

<sup>48</sup> CWLC meeting 9 July para 245

<sup>49</sup> <https://senedd.cymru/laid%20documents/cr-ld12847/cr-ld12847%20-e.pdf>

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also the importance of having access to outdoor environments, such as National Trust sites.

The more engagement people have with their heritage and history, the stronger their sense of community cohesion. How that history is presented is ever changing. We welcome the commitment by National Museum Wales to ‘work with the communities of Wales to be actively anti-racist in all that we do’.<sup>50</sup> Its recognition that this involves diversifying collections was shared by the National Library of Wales.

The desire to start conversations about the content and display of our national collections and the ways in which they may represent a legacy of colonialism abroad and oppression at home should be built on. As should the efforts to widen access to heritage sites, archives and museums by making everyone feel welcome.

We are calling on the Welsh Government to set out how any additional funding for the cultural sector will be used to mitigate social exclusion and increase access to our heritage sites, libraries and museums.

**Recommendation 7.** The Welsh Government should set out how any additional funding for the cultural sector will be used to mitigate social exclusion and increase access to our heritage sites, libraries and museums.

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<sup>50</sup> National Museum Wales written evidence



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## Annex A

The Committee heard from the following people at a meeting on 9 July. A transcript of the meeting is on the [website](#):

David Anderson, Director	National Museum Wales
Pedr ap Llwyd, Chief Executive and Librarian	The National Library of Wales
Andrew White, Director	National Lottery Heritage Fund
Justin Albert, Director	National Trust

The Committee received written contributions to our inquiry which can be accessed on the [website](#).

The following written contributions have been used in this report:

COV 22 Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway
COV 27 National Trust Wales
COV 24 Conwy County Borough Council
COV 60 Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales
COV 67 National Museum Wales
COV 68 Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales
COV 71 Museums Association
COV 76 FDA

## Annex B

### Emergency funding

<p><b>Cultural Resilience Fund</b> for museums, collections, conservation services, archives and community and public libraries, distributed by the Welsh Government.</p>	£1,000,000
<p><b>COVID-19 Resilience grant scheme</b> for Welsh museums and heritage attractions.</p> <p>Funds from the Welsh Government, administered by the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales. As at 6 July, £158,417 had been awarded to 18 museums</p>	£300,000
<p><b>Funds from the Welsh Government for developing digital resources in libraries</b></p>	£250,000
<p>National Lottery Heritage Fund's UK-wide <b>Heritage Emergency Fund</b></p> <p>Grants of between £3,000 and £50,000 for 'historic sites, industrial and maritime heritage, museums, libraries and archives, parks and gardens, landscapes and nature'.<sup>51</sup></p>	£50,000,000
<p>On 5 July 2020 the UK Government announced a £1.57 billion investment to protect cultural, arts and heritage institutions, including £59 million for Wales.<sup>52</sup></p> <p>On 30 July 2020 the Welsh Government announced a £53 million fund 'to provide essential support to theatres, galleries, music venues, heritage sites, museums, galleries, archive services, events and festivals, and independent cinemas'.<sup>53</sup></p>	£53,000,000
<p><b>UK Government Business Support</b></p> <p>Loans, tax relief and cash grants are available - the Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales said that their members have secured at least £560,000 from the funding linked to their rateable values.</p> <p>Job Retention scheme - Employers can apply for staff to get up to 80% pay if they can't work - 'the furlough scheme'. The Committee was told:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 80% of National Trust staff are furloughed</li> <li>▪ 40% of National Museum Wales staff are furloughed</li> </ul>	

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/heritage-emergency-fund-faqs>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/157-billion-investment-to-protect-britains-world-class-cultural-arts-and-heritage-institutions>

<sup>53</sup> <https://gov.wales/securing-the-future-of-wales-culture-sector>

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<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ 25% of The National Library of Wales staff are furloughed</li></ul>	
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