



29 January 2024

To: Correspondence.Dawn.Bowden@gov.wales

Dear Deputy Minister

The Federation of Museums and Galleries in Wales appreciates the financial assistance that our member museums have received from the Welsh Government that has ensured they have been able to provide accessible key services to communities across Wales. We also recognize that you and your officials are currently having to make difficult budget decisions.

However, on behalf of our members we urge you to consider the predicament of local museums when determining how budget cuts will fall. We also ask you to note the key role of Amgueddfa Cymru in providing services for communities and local museums across Wales.

Local museums care for over 1.2 million artefacts which tell the many stories of Wales' vibrant and diverse communities. Museums need to care for the objects they already hold and ensure they grow and cherish new collections to ensure those diverse communities are represented at a local level. They do this with a mere 250 full-time equivalent staff who support over 1000 volunteers. Museums also make a valuable economic contribution to the resilience of communities. They show an entrepreneurial spirit in creating new income streams and lever in support from a wide range of national and local public and charitable funders. Museums can act as catalysts for the creation of inclusive communities. They create exhibitions, activities and events with traditionally excluded groups and can help people to see their stories as a part of the identity of Wales. Museums in Wales deliver an impressive range of informal and formal learning services to their communities.

However, significant cuts to grants from Welsh Government will place many of these activities in jeopardy and reduce opportunities to lever additional funds into communities. All the grants we distribute on your behalf support the Future Generation Act goals, the Anti Racist Wales Action Plan and the Programme for Government.

Local Authority run museums are already facing direct budget cuts amongst stiff competition for funding with other services. Charity and volunteer run museums in Wales, which account for half of local museum provision, rely heavily on local authorities for financial and professional support. They are fearful that without such support, they could face closure or a loss of access to other sources of grant. According to the Welsh Government's 2022 Spotlight survey of museums, 75% of museums rely on local authority support.

Welsh Government grants to local museums form a relatively small proportion of your overall budget responsibility. If these are also reduced, museums will have to deal with cuts from two key funders simultaneously. The Federation is genuinely concerned that museums, already struggling to recover from the effects of the pandemic and ongoing financial crises, may be forced to close, to the detriment of their communities and the historic collections.

The Federation has been pleased to partner with you and your officials in the past to distribute much needed targeted funds to local museums, that ensure museums can meet community needs and objectives, and we look forward to continuing this partnership.

Please note that this is an open letter which we will share with our members via our website and hope to be able to share your reply.

Chris Delaney
Development Officer, on behalf of the committee
Federation of Museums and Galleries of Wales

The Federation of Museums and Art Galleries of Wales is the independent strategic body for museums and art galleries in Wales. We advocate for the highest standards of museum provision throughout Wales.

Key Messages

1. Museums empower people through learning, participation and inspiration
2. Museums and their collections strengthen community identity and well being
3. Museums make a significant economic contribution through tourism and regeneration

Spotlight 2022 Sample Data

[stories of Wales](#)

[local economies](#)

[equality, diversity and inclusion](#)

[community learning organisations](#)