



Eich cyf/Your ref: P-05-996
Ein cyf/Our ref: FM-/01372/20

Janet Finch-Saunders MS
Chair of Petitions Committee
Senedd Cymru

petitions@senedd.wales

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Dear Chair

Thank you for drawing my attention to Petition P-05-996 calling on the Welsh Government not to remove, damage or destroy any historical symbols in Wales.

The Black Lives Matter movement has brought to the fore a number of issues which we need to address as a country, one of which is the need to reflect on the nature of the visible reminders of the country's past which exist in communities across Wales.

To help us in this process of reflection, I have announced the establishment of a task and finish group charged with undertaking an audit of historic monuments and statues, street and public building names, associated with the history of black communities in Wales, and in particular the slave trade.

Under the Well-Being of Future Generations Act 2015, the Welsh Government has a duty to work towards a Wales that is more equal. This audit is important work to further the equality of people and communities across Wales.

Once the audit has been completed we will consider appropriate response. However, it would be inappropriate to suggest what these might be at this stage.

I enclose a link to my written statement setting out more information about the audit:

<https://gov.wales/written-statement-audit-public-monuments-street-and-building-names-associated-history-black>

Best wishes

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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.