

Dawn Bowden AS/MS
Dirprwy Weinidog y Celfyddydau a Chwaraeon, a'r Prif Chwip
Deputy Minister for Arts and Sport, and Chief Whip



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Delyth Jewell AS/MS
Chair Culture, Communication, Welsh Language,
International Relations and Sport Committee

22 December 2021

Dear Delyth,

Thank you for your letter requesting an update about the National Contemporary Arts Gallery and Football Museum for Wales for the Committee.

National Contemporary Art Gallery

The Co-operation Agreement reconfirms the commitment to further develop the proposals for a National Contemporary Art Gallery, as referenced in the updated Programme for Government.

The project has been led by a Steering Group consisting of Welsh Government officials, the Arts Council of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales.

Following the preliminary feasibility study in 2018, the previous Government decided to pursue a 'federated approach' with venues across Wales. A further feasibility study carried out by the Rural Office for Architecture suggested that a distributed model with 8-10 sites offering local access to bespoke or touring collections would be the preferred delivery model for the National Contemporary Art Gallery. A key outcome would be to provide local access to the national collection of contemporary art held by Amgueddfa Cymru and the National Library of Wales.

Further detailed work on developing the distributed model has been carried out and has identified a requirement for a one off capital investment of circa £5m over 4 years, plus a potential ongoing revenue requirement. This work will inform the business case being developed by Arts Council of Wales and Amgueddfa Cymru, which we expect to receive for consideration in March 2022. Advice to Ministers on funding for the project will be dependent on a robust and compelling business case which demonstrates value for money.

Initial work to digitise the collection held by Amgueddfa Cymru, which is a fundamental first step to making the collections available to galleries, is progressing well. These digital assets have been used in a number of innovative ways during the pandemic to increase public

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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.

access to the collection, to entertain and educate, under the banner [Celf ar y Cyd](#). For example – an online magazine featuring a range of diverse voices ([Cynfas](#)); a participatory website where people can curate exhibits from the national collection ([Art 100](#)); and NHS staff selecting artworks to be reproduced in large formats for display in field hospitals and vaccination centres ([Art in Hospitals](#)).

Football Museum for Wales

The project is being led by a Steering Group chaired by Wrexham Borough Council Chief Executive Officer, and includes representatives of Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, the Welsh Museums Federation and Welsh Government officials.

The Steering Group accepted the recommendation of the Business Plan to focus on maximising use of space within the current building. This will require alterations to the building, for current exhibitions to be reorganised and offsite storage found for reserve collections. Building works are required to bring the latter up to specification for museum collections and work is scheduled to start in April 2022.

Haley Sharpe Design and Purcell Architects were appointed in June to develop detailed design proposals and costs for the project, initially through to RIBA stage 3 with continuation for the remaining project subject to agreement. An outline delivery plan has been created, which aims to complete the design phase by September 2022 and, if approved, take construction work forward with a view to the Football Museum opening in April 2025.

In terms of the Museum project team, a dedicated football curator and project manager were appointed in March and April 2021 respectively. Public consultation has taken place with 529 responses from across Wales and discussions with education professionals. Further detailed consultation with stakeholder groups is planned for RIBA stages 2, 3 and 4 to inform the shape and content of the revamped museum.

The Steering Group has advised that additional staff are required to ensure that engagement for the project is genuinely Wales-wide and bilingual, and we are considering a funding request to support this. Advice to Ministers on funding for the project will be dependent on a robust and compelling business case, due in March 2022, which demonstrates value for money.

Sporting Heritage

The written statement issued by my predecessor also refers to the work of the expert panel for Sporting Heritage in Wales and I am pleased to report this has continued. A Wales Network for Sporting Heritage has been established and meets every 3 months. Consultation on a National Framework of the Sporting Heritage of Wales closed in October. The final framework will be published in 2022 along with an action plan for delivery.

Yours sincerely



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