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We welcome correspondence in Welsh.

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4th March 2022

Mark Isherwood MS
Committee Chair
Public Accounts & Public Administration Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay
CARDIFF CF99 1SN

SeneddPAPA@senedd.wales

Dear Mark

I am writing to you as Accounting Officer for Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales.

Thank you for your letter of 25 February concerning the Financial Reports of Amgueddfa Cymru - National Museum Wales for 2020-21. I welcome your attention to this matter.

You note that the Committee has considered the Auditor General's Report to the Senedd which, as you say, identifies concerns about governance issues.

On page 33, in the second paragraph of the section **4. Review of Effectiveness**, the Report notes that, "The Accounting Officer has been advised on the effectiveness of the governance framework by the Trustees, the Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee and directors, and plans to address issues and ensure continuous improvement. More information is provided on these plans in section 5 on Governance Issues and Future Improvements below, *which also notes a significant issue relating to the governance of the organisation* [My italics].

On page 34, in the first paragraph of section **5. Governance Issues and Future Improvements**, the Report notes that, "During the year [2020-21], some concerns have been raised by senior executives about the clarity of the respective roles and responsibilities of the Board and the Executive. These matters have been drawn to the attention of Audit Wales, the Welsh Government and the Welsh Government's Additional Accounting Officer. A tailored review of governance by Welsh Government is planned for 2022 in response to an earlier request from the Board of Trustees for such a review."

Llywydd / President Roger Lewis
Is-Llywydd / Vice President Dr Carol Bell PhD, DLitt
Trysorydd / Treasurer Hywel John FCA
Cyfarwyddwr Cyffredinol / Director General David Anderson OBE
Elusen Cofrestredig / Registered charity: 525774
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In the fifth paragraph of the **Report of the Auditor General for Wales**, he states that, “In practice, there has been a significant impact on the conduct of the Board and Committee meetings and on communication between the Board of Trustees and the Executive for the latter half of 2021. ***As that impact continues, I consider that there is an ongoing risk to effective governance arrangements***” [My italics].

In your letter, you say that “The Committee anticipates that the Review will include consideration of the governance issues touched on in the Auditor General’s report. Subject to the completion of the Review, the Committee intends to hold a scrutiny session with the National Museum in Autumn 2022 in which we would also look to consider the Financial Report for 2021-22.”

As Accounting Officer, I am concerned that the Committee will not consider these matters for at least another six months. The Welsh Government informed the Museum’s Executive and Trustees six months ago, in September 2021, that it was beginning a Review of Governance. However, this Review has not yet begun its work.

Audit Wales has taken the exceptional action of alerting the Senedd that there is an ongoing risk to effective governance arrangements. No actions that have been taken so far have been successful in addressing this risk, and I am concerned that it may continue and grow.

As the Museum’s Accounting Officer, I would be grateful if the Committee will review its decision not to consider these matters until the Autumn.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Anderson". The signature is written in dark ink on a light background.

David Anderson
Director General