



Mr W Powell
Committee Chair
National Association for Wales
Cardiff Bay
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Sent by Post & Email

16 November 2012

Dear Mr Powell

Petition: A Permanent Memorial to Wales's Workers

Thank you for your letter of 31 October which I have discussed with colleagues, including those in RoSPA Wales.

In general terms, we did not see the proposal as having a significant appeal, not least because of its expected cost. In our view, greater publicity of commemorative events on Workers Memorial Day would be a more realistic option as a focal point for families, trade unions and campaign organisations. The Welsh Government and its Ministers could be encouraged to help support and promote such events throughout the Principality enabling greater local participation and more widespread recognition.

One less expensive alternative we considered might be to create an online guide to the existing memorials so it can be used by students, tourism advisers and so. At the request of our National Occupational Safety and Health Committee, one of its members, Sheila Pantry, has created an online guide to memorials to workers killed in accidents and disasters (see <http://www.sheilapantry.com/memorial>). Most of those Wales relate to mining disasters (e.g. Aberbeeg, Gresford, Senghenydd) as opposed to accidents in other sectors or they relate to much greater health tragedies like silicosis (slate mining) asbestos (foundries, railways, shipbuilding), or more recent tragedies such as the VCM liver cancer problem at Baglan Bay - which are largely forgotten.

An alternative might be a temporary memorial (see interesting examples at <http://www.sheilapantry.com/memorial/temporary.html>) or commissioning a painting (or other artwork).

Ms Pantry is leading a further project to chart the history of health and safety at work. The HHSW portal can be accessed at <http://www.aitisol.co.uk/prototypes/history/index.html>). It might also be possible perhaps to persuade various museums in Wales to cooperate in devoting some exhibition/web space to this subject.



I hope these suggestions are of value. Please do not hesitate to contact me in the future if you would like to discuss this further.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'T' and 'M' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal line that curves upwards at the end.

Tom Mullarkey MBE
Chief Executive